

# CMR

COMMUNITY  
MEDIA REVIEW



## *Channels to Freedom*

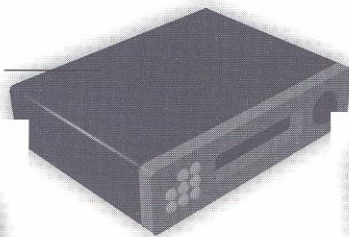
*A World of Community Media*

# Solutions for Multimedia Delivery on **Government Access TV**

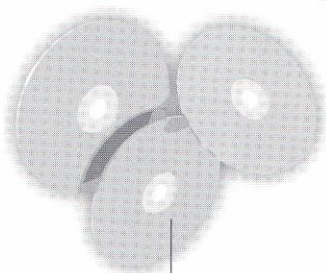
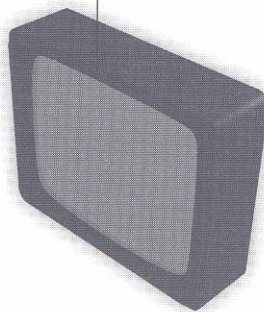
---

FrameRate's powerful ***Millennium Multimedia Management System*** provides you with a complete set of software tools to create, edit, and manage programming on your PEG channel.

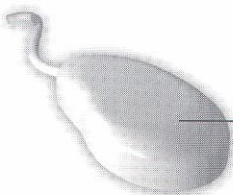
**VCR Machine Control**



**Interactive Television**



**MPEG Digital Video**



**Internet Web Pages**

***Millennium***<sup>™</sup>  
Multimedia Management Systems

You can easily automate the playback of tapes, digital video clips (mpeg), bulletin-board slides, web pages, and Powerpoint slide shows.

Call us and discover how our easy-to-use technology can bring your PEG channel into the new ***millennium***.

**800.579.8247**



**FrameRate**<sup>™</sup>  
Solutions for Multimedia Delivery

3007 South West Temple, Suite H  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115  
Web: <http://www.framerate.com>



# CMR

## COMMUNITY MEDIA REVIEW

SUMMER 2000  
VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

### CMR EDITORIAL BOARD

Dirk Koning, *Chair*  
Pat Garlinghouse, *Information Services Chair*  
Jeffrey Hansell, Lucille Frasca  
Harrigan, Jennifer A. Krebs

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF THIS ISSUE

Jeffrey Hansell

### MANAGING EDITOR

Tim Goodwin

### NATIONAL OFFICE

Bunnie Riedel, *Executive Director*  
Matthew Bennett, *Government  
Relations/Communications*  
Felicia Brown, *Membership/Operations*

### ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Brading, Laurie Cirivello,  
Frank Clark, John Donovan, Steve Fortriede,  
Pat Garlinghouse, Harry Haasch,  
David Hawksworth, Ric Hayes, Jim Horwood,  
Eitan Kushner, Miki Lee, Serena Mann,  
Erik Möllberg, Kevin Reynolds,  
John Rocco, Debra Rogers, Ken Snider,  
Karen Toering, Greg Vawter



Alliance  
for  
Community  
Media

**Community Media Review** [ISSN 1074-9004] is published quarterly by the Alliance for Community Media, Inc. Subscriptions \$35 a year. Please send subscriptions, memberships, address changes, advertising and editorial inquiries to the Alliance for Community Media, 666 11th St. NW, Suite 740, Washington, DC 20001-4542. Telephone 202.393.2650 voice, 202.393.2653 fax. Email: [acm@alliancecm.org](mailto:acm@alliancecm.org) or visit the Alliance for Community Media web site at [www.alliancecm.org](http://www.alliancecm.org)

Requests for bulk orders considered in advance of publication. Contact the national office for rates and delivery.

Copyright ©2000 by the Alliance for Community Media, Inc. Prior written permission of the Alliance for Community Media required for all reprints or usage.

Produced through the studios of

**city media**

## IN THIS ISSUE

### OPENERS

- Spreading the Gospel of the First Amendment, *Bunnie Riedel* **3**  
Alliance National Board listing **4**  
Limiting Ideas and Access Is Dangerous, *Rob Brading* **5**

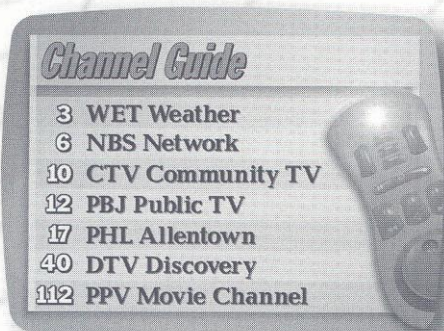
## Channels to Freedom A World of Community Media

- About this Issue, *Jeffrey Hansell* **7**  
Raising Consciousness in Creole, *Jane Regan* **9**  
Letters from Fiji, *Christer Hederström & Regina Yates* **10**  
France's Télébocal, *Jeffrey Hansell* **12**  
Conversations in the Public Space, *Leonhard Hansen* **13**  
Belgrade, Serbia, *Veran Matic* **14**  
Veran Matic Charts a Brave Course for B92 **14**  
Channels to Freedom, *Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke* **15**  
People's Communication Charter **16**  
Community Media Worldwide **17**  
Too Late for Ukraine?, *Tim Goodwin* **18**  
Interview with Tomsk TV2's Leonid Prokof'ev, *Hye-Jung Park* **20**  
Tansen, Nepal, *Catherine Edwards* **22**  
South Korea, *Bunnie Riedel* **24**  
Turkey: A Democracy in the Shadows, *Jeffrey Hansell* **26**  
Turkey, *Professor Doğu Ergil* **26**  
Community Media as a Tool for Peace, *Dirk Koning* **27**

As the journal of the Alliance for Community Media, Community Media Review shall support the Alliance mission by providing: a comprehensive overview of past, present and future issues critical to the Alliance and its membership; vigorous and thoughtful debate on those issues; and a venue for members and like-minded groups to present issues critical to the Alliance.

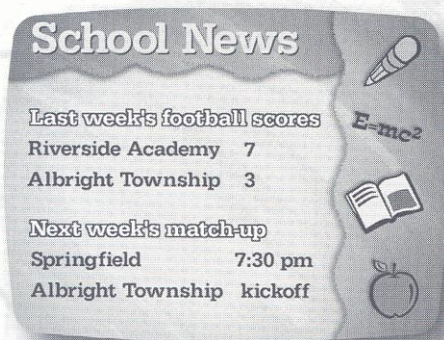


# Create, Schedule & Run InfoChannel®



## Channel Listings & News

Easily create and update professional looking programs. Promote your public access pay-per-view and premium channels.



## Community Access & Schools

Improve the quality and image of your channel with the included content library and array of effects and transitions.



## Photo Advertising

Schedule and track an unlimited number of ads. Maximize your advertising revenue.



InfoChannel is a complete production system for making your own multimedia TV channels. It's a flexible and easy to use tool to create professional broadcast quality programming in a snap. Integrate text, graphics, video and sound, then schedule and run from a desktop PC. **Anyone can do it!**

- Easy to learn interface
- Includes 400MB of clipart
- Supports most graphic, animation and sound formats
- Supports MPEG 1 and 2 video (with additional hardware)
- Remote control of players over modem, LAN or Internet
- Insert real-time data for news, weather, time, etc.
- Schedule events for time, day and date
- Optional Reporter software for template-based editing
- Optional Designer software to publish on the web

### Who uses InfoChannel?

AT&T Media, KY  
City of Oakland, CA  
City of Peekskill, NY  
City of Sioux Falls, MN  
Comcast Cable, PA  
Cornell University, NY  
County of San Diego, CA  
Cox Communications  
Duncan Cable, VT  
Jones Communications, GA  
Kansas City, MS  
MediaOne, OH  
Oceanside Cable TV, CA  
Ohio University, Athens, OH  
Suburban Cable, PA  
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX  
TimeWarner Cable Ithaca, NY  
TimeWarner Cable, KC

For Sales Information call: 818-673-1300  
or visit our website at [www.scala.com](http://www.scala.com)





# Spreading the Gospel of the First Amendment

by **Bunnie Riedel**

Executive Director,  
Alliance for Community Media

Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to discuss the First Amendment of the Constitution with various international visitors. When I was national field director at Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the First Amendment discussions centered on the religion clauses, and now as executive director of the Alliance, I concentrate on the free speech clause. Most of the international visitors I have had come to my office through the State Department, and more recently I have had visits which were arranged by the Phelps Stokes Foundation. I get very excited about these cultural exchanges and typically give as much of my time to them as I can. I notice that I always get somewhat emotional when discussing the First Amendment with international visitors. I feel a mixture of pride, devotion, gratitude and a bittersweet longing for a day when all people, everywhere, will be free to follow their conscience and speak their minds.

My most recent visitors came from such disparate countries as Hungary, Spain (the Basque region) and Thailand. Two required translators and one did not. I get a bit nervous when a translator is used because I know that nuance in language can make all the difference in understanding, but I also recognize that cultural differences also can color whether or not I am adequately communicating the important concepts of the First Amendment. I try to paint a vivid picture of what the First Amendment means and how it plays out in our daily lives because I want so bad for these concepts to take root in the imaginations of my international guests. I fantasize myself as a missionary spreading the gospel of freedom, which is then carried back to these countries and is shared with others. Perhaps it is just a spark, but I know that from a spark a raging fire can be built.

When I am answering questions about the First Amendment, I can feel the enormity of what I am saying as if I

*Throughout the world, there is tremendous hunger for the freedoms we enjoy in this country. Media democracy is essential to achieving any kind of democracy at all...Our much maligned community media that we create even when the conditions are less than perfect...is recognized world-wide as important.*



too am hearing it for the first time. Like most Americans, I typically don't give much thought to the Constitution, it is something I grew up expecting would always be there. But it is not just a document or a set of principles, it is the basis for our entire culture. I am who I am because I live here in the United States and I am protected by the Constitution. This is the first and foremost cultural influence and all other cultural influences fall behind the Constitution's preeminence in our daily lives, whether we are aware of it or not.

The most difficult part of these discussions centers around the inherent tension built into the Constitution and most certainly, the First Amendment. I have often found that international visitors are not completely comfortable with the idea that in order to have certain freedoms means we must give equal freedom to people and concepts we do not like. Sometimes our own freedom requires the sharing or giving up of our own power. I certainly would like to put an instant end to racist speech, sexist behavior, intolerant attitudes and dogmatic bullying, but in order to do that I would have to violate the very rights I fervently defend for myself. Instead I chose a path which requires the changing of hearts and minds, and that is a very long, often discouraging and tiresome journey.

Frequently international visitors are amazed that we have taken First Amendment concepts and made them concrete in our media. It is stunning to have the "town square" idea practiced in such a powerful way, that one-to-many communication made possible by this

age of miracle and wonders. There are those who would say that the most powerful form of communication, the television set, is somehow exempt from the rigors of the Constitution because of its pervasive nature. But we prove every day that free speech media does not denigrate our culture, it celebrates, expands, challenges and strengthens who we are as Americans, individually and collectively.

So many of the First Amendment battles in community media are focused on Public access, but I would argue that the First Amendment is also challenged in Government and Education access. The flip-side of being able to "speak freely" is being able to "hear freely." How can I participate in democracy if I cannot "hear" what my elected officials are saying or I cannot "hear" educational information that increases my understanding? It is having information available to me from multiple sources that is critical to the realization and maintenance of freedom.

Throughout the world, there is tremendous hunger for the freedoms we enjoy in this country. Media democracy is essential to achieving any kind of democracy at all. That is why I have international visitors in the Alliance office from time to time. Our much maligned community media that we create even when the conditions are less than perfect (sometimes in church or school basements or spaces hardly bigger than utility closets!) is recognized world-wide as important. And, there are people throughout the world who are depending on us to be resolute in our dedication to making it flourish and grow.



# 1999-2000 ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

**Rob Brading** **Chair, At Large**  
Executive Director,  
Multnomah Community Television  
26000 SE Stark St., Gresham, OR 97030  
Voice: 503.491.7636, x318 / Fax: 503.491.7417  
email: rbrading@mctv.org

**Ric Hayes** **Vice Chair, At Large**  
Director of Cable Operations,  
Miami Valley Cable Council  
1195 E. Alex-Bell Road, Centerville, OH 45459  
Voice: 937.438.8887 x3025 / Fax: 937.438.8569  
email: rhayes@mvcc.net

**Karen Toering** **Secretary, At-Large**  
Executive Director  
SCAN – Seattle Cable Access Network  
1125 N. 98th Street  
Seattle, WA 98103  
Voice: 206.522.4758 / Fax: 206.528.8049  
email: scandir@home.com

**Kevin Reynolds** **Treasurer, At-Large**  
5520 North Bloomfield Rd.  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
Voice: 716.394.3028  
email: reynolds@netacc.net

## REGIONAL CHAIRS

**Erik Möllberg** **Central States Chair,  
Chair of Chairs**  
Access Fort Wayne  
900 Webster St., Ft. Wayne IN 46802  
Voice: 219.421.1248, / Fax: 219.422.9688  
email: erikm66345@aol.com

**Greg Vawter** **Southeast Chair**  
Hillsborough Community TV  
PO Box 1110, 24th Floor  
Tampa, FL 33601  
Voice: 813.276.2681 / Fax: 813.276.2691  
email: gvawter1@tampabay.rr.com

**Patricia Garlinghouse** **Southwest Chair,  
Information Services Chair**  
Houston MediaSource  
3900 Milam, Houston, TX 78767  
Voice: 713.524.7700, x13 / Fax: 713.524.3823  
email: patg@houston-mediasource.org

**John A. Rocco** **Mid-Atlantic Chair**  
DATV  
280 Leo St., Dayton, OH 45404  
Voice: 937.223.5311 / Fax: 937.223.2345  
email: 102546.526@compuserv.com

**Debra Rogers** **Conference Planning Chair**  
Executive Director,  
Falmouth Community Television, FCTV13  
310 Dillingham Ave.,  
Falmouth, MA 02540  
Voice: 508.457.0800 / Fax: 508.457.1604  
email: deb@fctv.org

**Ken Snider** **Northwest Chair**  
Multnomah Community Television  
26000 SE Stark St.  
Gresham, OR 97030  
Voice: 503.491.7636, x325 / Fax: 503.491.7417  
email: ken@mctv.org

**David Hawksworth** **Midwest Chair**  
Executive Director,  
Community Access Television of Salina  
410 W. Ash St.  
Salina, KS 67401  
Voice: 785.823.2500 / Fax: 785.823.2599  
email: daveh@salnet.org

**Laurie Cirivello** **Western States Chair**  
Executive Director,  
Santa Rosa Community Media Access Center  
1075 Mendocino Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
Voice: 707.569.8785 / Fax: 707.569.8786  
email: lcirivello@communitymedia.org

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Eitan Kushner** **At-Large**  
29 Leah Goldberg  
Danya Haifa, Israel 34987  
Voice: 972.4.8251521  
email: shimona@techunix.technion.ac.il

## AT-LARGE

**John Donovan**  
35 Newell Rd., Auburndale, MA 02466  
Voice: 617.661.6900 x123 / Fax: 617.661.6927  
email: jwd@wn.net

**Steve Fortriede**  
Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster St.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270  
Voice: 219.421.1205 / Fax: 219.422.9688  
email: sfortriede@acpl.lib.in.us

**Miki Lee** **Board Development Chair**  
'Olelo: The Corporation  
for Community Television  
1122 Mapunapuna St.  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
Voice: 808.834.0007, x131 / Fax: 808.836.2546  
email: mlee@olelo.org

**Harry Haasch**  
Community Television Network  
425 S. Main, Suite LL 114  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Voice: 734.994.1833 / Fax: 734.994.8731  
email: hhaasch@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

## DISCRETIONARY APPOINTEES

**James Horwood** **Legal Affairs Appointee**  
Attorney-at-Law,  
Spiegel & McDiarmid  
1350 New York Ave, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005-4798  
Voice: 202.879.4002 / Fax: 202.393.2866  
email: horwoodj@spiegelmc.com

**Serena Mann** **Equal Opportunity Chair**  
General Manager  
Flagship Channel and Television Services  
0121 Tawes Fine Arts Bldg.  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
Voice: 301.405.3610 / Fax: 301.405.0496  
email: smann@deans.umd.edu

**Frank Clark**  
City Hall  
801 Plum St., Room 28  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Voice: 513.352.5307 / Fax: 513.352.5347  
email: frank.clark@cincable.rcc.org

## 'Talk Amongst Yourselves...'

Information, resources, networking and national office announcements are at your fingertips day or night. The Alliance hosts two listservs to help you:

Those interested in community media (Alliance membership not required), should send notice to subscribe to [government@alliancecm.org](mailto:government@alliancecm.org) then sign on to: [access-forum@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:access-forum@lists.alliancecm.org)

Members only, send notice to subscribe to [government@alliancecm.org](mailto:government@alliancecm.org) then sign on to: [alliance-announce@lists.alliancecm.org](mailto:alliance-announce@lists.alliancecm.org)

## Useful Contacts

**Alliance for Community Media**  
666 11th St. NW, Suite 740  
Washington, DC 20001-4542  
Telephone 202.393.2650 voice  
202.393.2653 fax.  
Email: [acm@alliancecm.org](mailto:acm@alliancecm.org)  
[www.alliancecm.org](http://www.alliancecm.org)

**Federal Communications Commission**  
The Portals  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
202.418.0200 voice  
202.418.2812 fax  
[www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)

## Your Federal Legislators

The Honorable Sen. \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510  
on the web through  
<http://clerkweb.house.gov>  
or call 202.224.3121



## Limiting Ideas and Access Is Dangerous

by Rob Brading

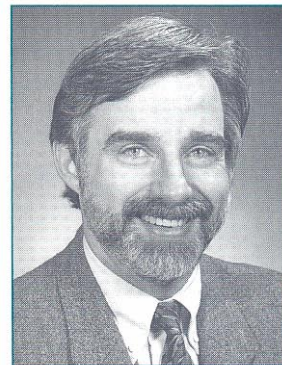
Portugal, a country roughly the size of Indiana, was once in the position the United States holds today—as the world's sole super power. It ruled the oceans, was a leader in science and technology, and was probably the world's most prosperous nation. That was a lot of years ago, and many events, decisions, choices led to its decline.

As is the case with so many declines, Portugal, along with Spain, attempted to close themselves off, to protect themselves from dangerous people and dangerous—foreign and heretical—ideas. Education was controlled by the Roman Catholic Church and focussed on grammar, rhetoric and scholastic argument. New ideas were not merely neglected, but discussion of them was forbidden. Galileo's persecution is well known, but he had excellent company as the ideas and theories of Copernicus and Newton were also banned. Galileo compounded his transgressions when he responded by publishing in Italian instead of Latin. In doing so, he snubbed insiders by appealing to a larger audience and popularized his heresy, an action intolerable to the Church.

Incoming ships were inspected and bookshops and libraries visited to ensure that the Portuguese public wouldn't have access to soul-damaging materials. Publications were usually limited to dictionaries and religious matters, and if that weren't enough, the nearest printing presses, kept in the control of clerics, were kept in Goa, India.

Portugal followed Spain's lead and drove out the Jews even though it was the Jews who were responsible for generating much of the nation's wealth and capital, as well as its knowledge. One economic-historian notes that the Jews “took with them money, commercial know-how, connections, knowledge and—*even more serious*—those immeasurable qualities of curiosity and dissent that are the leaven of thought.” (Emphasis added.) Apparently driving out the Jews wasn't sufficient to adequately stifle divergent thinking, so those who worked in the same professions as Jews were persecuted. Most of Portugal's astronomers were Jewish. Once they were

*The smothering of incentive and the cultivation of mendacity are a characteristic weakness of large bureaucracies, whether public or private. A society or culture that closes itself to one source of novelty or innovation is already in the process of closing itself to another.*



gone, other astronomers were suspected of being Jewish. The Spanish treated their physicians in a similar manner.

The Portuguese fell behind in areas they had once dominated. Portuguese commerce and economic dominance depended on their naval power, which was second to none. Much of that superiority stemmed from their navigational prowess. As their exposure to new ideas and technology was increasingly limited, the Portuguese lost the navigational superiority. Decline of their naval superiority followed quickly.

Portuguese students didn't study abroad, both because it was feared that they would be infected with alien ideas and because they were likely to suffer on their return, even if a divergent thought never entered their head. Portuguese who visited foreign countries and reported that Portugal was falling behind attracted deep suspicion. They had been tainted by their exposure to cultures and ideas outside of Portugal. Otherwise, the country might have noticed that the pursuit of Christian uniformity was extremely restrictive, that the Holy Office of the Inquisition was a national disaster, that the Church was swallowing the wealth of Portugal, that Portugal, instead of being the world's super power, had instead become England's best and most profitable colony.

Visitors to Portugal reported that “the people are so little curious that no man knows more than what is merely necessary for him” and that “the bulk of the people were disinclined to independence of thought and, in all but a few instances, too much averse from intellectual activity to question what they had learned.”

Intellectual decline and ennui were not

limited to scientific or technical endeavors. Once the scientists, mathematicians, and physicians were gone, no dissenters appeared to take their place. Not surprising in a country where not only was dissent not valued, but where it was suppressed. The impact went far beyond science and technology. Church corruption and decay continued unabated absent any dynamic countervailing forces. In France, as in other European countries, the presence of the Calvinist Huguenot kept Catholic clergy from sinking to the corrupt and sordid level of their Portuguese brethren.

Only late in the 20th century did Portugal begin to climb from its long decline. History is replete with similar stories. The smothering of incentive and the cultivation of mendacity are a characteristic weakness of large bureaucracies, whether public or private. A society or culture that closes itself to one source of novelty or innovation is already in the process of closing itself to another. People supposedly working for the common good compete not in a free marketplace of ideas but in a world of deceit and maneuver where the advantage lies with those in power.

Bart Giamatti, former president of Yale and baseball commissioner, once said that those who lust for simple answers of doctrine or degree, whether they're on the left or right, are terrorists of the mind. Those who would limit ideas, limit access to ideas or limit promulgation of ideas may do far more harm to society than any terrorist.

*Rob Brading is chairman of the Alliance for Community Media and executive director of Multnomah Community Television in Gresham, Oregon, email [rbrading@mctv.org](mailto:rbrading@mctv.org), telephone 503.491.7636 x318.*



# LEIGHTRONIX, INC.

## CONTROL PRODUCTS

### Contact **LEIGHTRONIX** for your **Cable Channel Control Solution**

- Automated Videotape Playback
- Digital Video Distribution and Playback
- Remote Headend Control

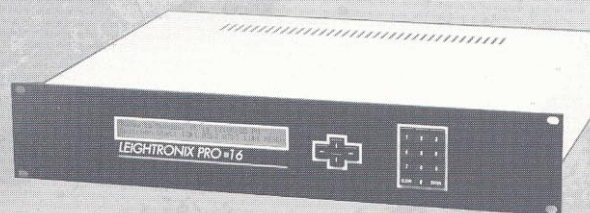
### **NEW! All Digital Interactive Community Bulletin Board System**

Telephone control for still image information and full motion  
MPEG playback!

### **NEW! NetEM Network Event Manager Software**

Control your LEIGHTRONIX Event Controller over  
a LAN, WAN, or the Internet!

LEIGHTRONIX, INC. 800-243-5589 • info@leightronix.com • www.leightronix.com



## AN IMPORTANT INVITATION

# ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS DEMOCRACY

Become an Alliance Subscriber for \$350/year and receive detailed reports on current court cases threatening access, pertinent historical case citations, and other Alliance for Communications Democracy activities.

- Voting membership open to non-profit access operations for an annual contribution of \$3,000.
- Associate, Supporter and Subscriber memberships available to organizations and individuals at the following levels:
  - Alliance Associate, \$2500 - copies of all briefs and reports.
  - Alliance Supporter, \$500 - copies of all reports and enclosures.
  - Alliance Subscriber, \$350 - copies of all reports.

Direct membership inquiries to ACD Treasurer Rob Brading,  
Multnomah Community Television, 26000 SE Stark St., Gresham, OR 97038,  
telephone 503.667.7636, or email at rbrading@mctv.org

For more than 10 years, the Alliance for Communications Democracy has been fighting to preserve and strengthen access. Though the odds against us have been high, and the mega-media, corporate foes well-heeled and powerful, time and again we've won in the courts. We can't continue this critical work without your support. With the ramifications of the 1996 Telecommunications Act manifesting themselves, and new legislation on the horizon, we must be vigilant if we are to prevail and preserve democratic communications. If not us, who? If not now, when? Please join the Alliance for Communications Democracy today!



Exactly one year ago, I came up with the idea for this issue of the *Community Media Review* and foolishly volunteered to be the guest editor, as well. If I had known how much work was involved, or how ill prepared I was for the task, I might have feigned a long illness and begged off the whole project. However difficult and harrowing, it has also been one of the more gratifying experiences of my life.

**Channels to Freedom—A World of Community Media** is really an attempt to describe the unique role that community and independent media often play in delivering democracy and preserving individual and cultural identity for people everywhere. Though not all community medias look the same, it is the day-to-day, life and death struggle towards the one common goal: **freedom**, that binds these stories together.

The revolutionary role played by the media as Haiti shed its family of dictators is documented by **Jane Regan**; “Letters from Fiji” is a first-hand account of the crisis on that island nation by CTV’s

**Regina Yates** as told to Sweden’s **Christer Hederström**; a profile of France’s ultra-independent community media center **Télébocal** is followed by an analysis by **Leonhard**

**Hansen** of Open Channel Hamburg’s innovations to its programming and productions; writing from Belgrade, **Veran Matic** makes the case that long-term peace in

the Balkans is tied to a strong defense of independent media; from the United Nations, Ambassador **Richard C. Holbrooke** underscores the bravery of independent

media reporters in the trouble spots around the world; CMR Managing Editor **Tim Goodwin** reports from Ukraine and reveals why more outreach efforts are needed in that

former Soviet republic; from Siberia, Tomsk Community

TV’s **Leonid Prokof’ev** answers some key questions posed by **Hye-Jung**

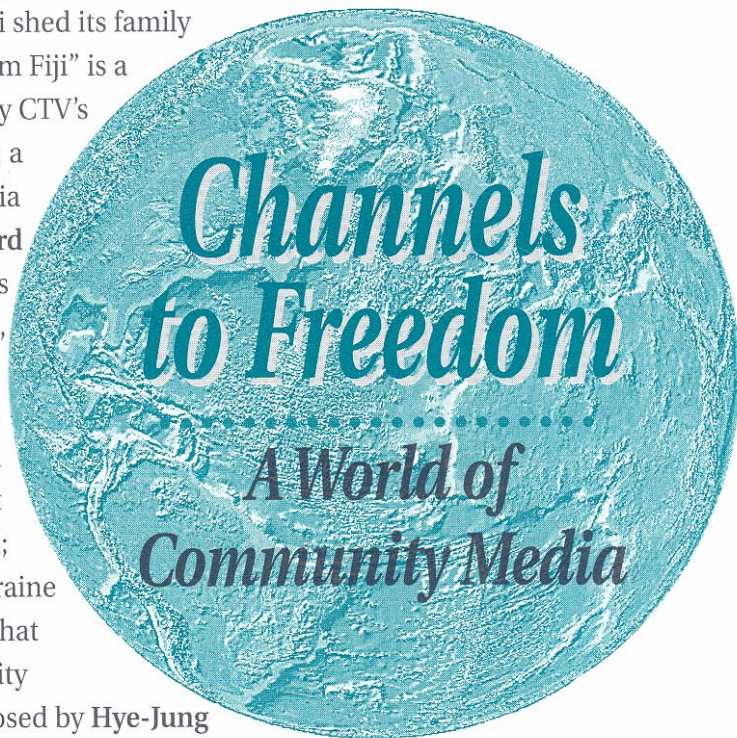
**Park**; Canada’s **Catherine Edwards** travels through the lower Himalayas to Nepal and provides a cogent update on the progress and problems for Shrinigar Cable; **Bunnie Riedel**, the Alliance’s executive director, gives an accounting of her trip to South Korea and her visit to the Korean Broadcasting Institute; a few words on Turkey—a democracy in transition—and an excerpt by Professor **Doğu Ergil** of Ankara University on ways that electronic media can be used to solve the “Kurdish problem” peacefully; and finally **Dirk Koning**’s remarks given at the United Nations’ *Year of Peace Conference* in Brazil indicate how community media can be a tool for peace.

That this issue of the *Community Media Review* is in your hands is due in no small part to the excellent work and steady guidance of Managing Editor Tim Goodwin—Thank you, Tim—and thanks to the CMR Editorial Board for their support and advice along the way. Most of all thanks to all of the contributors of this issue; their involvement and commitment brought this issue to life.

—Jeffrey Hansell

---

*Jeffrey Hansell is executive director of Malden Access TV located north of Boston, Massachusetts. He began working in community media in 1979 and recently served as the founding chair of Community Television of Boulder [Colorado]. Jeff spent the waning years of the last century in Europe—directing foreign language broadcasts, studying French, and becoming a well-known figure in many of the less reputable cafés of Paris.*





# PEG~i~SYS

---

## The Intelligent Station Management System for Today's PEG Operators

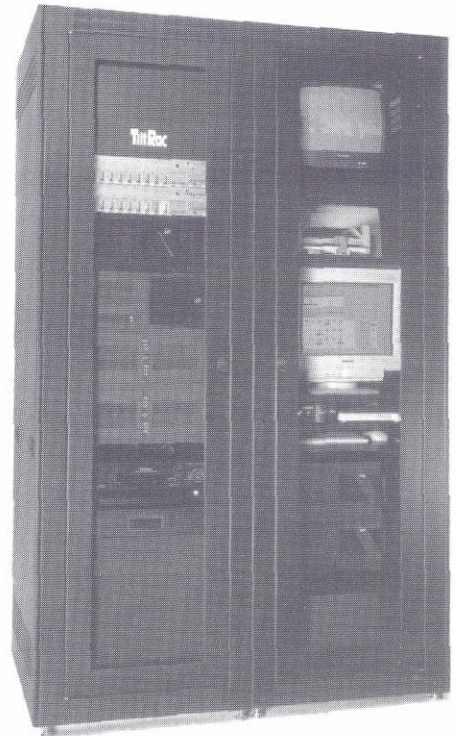
**PEG~i~SYS** is the new, intelligent, interactive PEG station management solution for Public, Education and Government Cable Access Channels from TILTRAC.

**PEG~i~SYS** includes hardware and software components designed for today's PEG operator.

- Digital Server and Encoding Systems
- Tape Automation Systems
- VCR Control
- Digital VCR's
- Station Automation Software
- Digital Video Archive Solutions
- Internet Access
- Web Casting
- Video On-Demand

**PEG~i~SYS** offers:

- Complete station automation
- 24/7 operating capability with limited staff
- Router Control
- Remote Access and Error Paging
- Traffic Manager Interface
- Web Interface
- Schedule Publishing to Web Pages and Character Generator
- Plus many other features



# TILTRAC

Automated Media Systems

3353 Earhart Drive, Suite 212, Carrollton, TX 75006  
Toll Free: 800-601-6991, Phone: 972-980-6991, Fax: 972-980-6994  
<http://www.tiltrac.com>



# RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS IN CREOLE

## MEDIA IN THE HAITIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

by Jane Regan

Haiti, Latin America's first republic and the first black republic in the world, lived under a dictatorship from 1957-1986: first under "Papa Doc" François Duvalier, and then his son, "Baby Doc," or Jean-Claude.

Together, they subjected Haiti to a reign of terror, exploitation, and brutality. During those dark years there was little freedom of movement and certainly no freedom of speech.

But the 1980s saw the rise of a democratic movement in Haiti, with three of its strongest currents becoming part of an effervescent tide that would sweep across the country and lead to the fall of Baby Doc, and converging in Radio Soleil, or "Sun Radio." At the station, which belongs to the Catholic Church, priests and journalists began doing the unthinkable: broadcasting in Creole, with programs dedicated to the population's aspirations for liberty and democracy, and allowing people to participate in the programs. Those three elements—the use of Creole, the language all Haitians speak; the focus on social change; and popular participation—were revolutionary, and they played a major role in "konsyantizasyon" or "consciousness-raising" of the Haitian people. One of the first programs was a "soap opera," which looked at human rights: *The Guarantees of the Law*.

"The use of Creole permitted the suffering masses to hear the news and to understand what was happening in the country," remembered Joseph Georges, a former programming director, who more than once had to duck bullets or go into hiding. "When they heard journalists were not afraid of the truth, people all over the country, like peasants, were not afraid of the truth either."

The Duvalier regime began to crack down on the station, and on December 5, 1985, after a broadcast of anti-Duvalier demonstrations in Gonaïves, the government shut down Radio Soleil. This move sent thousands of people into the streets in protest. Two months later (February 7, 1986), Duvalier fled, and Radio Soleil was back on the air, joined by other stations that also began broadcasting in Creole.

Although the Catholic Church hierarchy eventually ousted the progressive team at Radio Soleil, its legacy lives on. Joseph Georges helped to found AMARC, the World Association of Community Radios, and assisted the start-up of several commu-

nity and popular radio stations. Ironically, the slum once named after Duvalier's wife, is now called Cité Soleil, or "Sun City," after the radio station that helped liberate Haitians from dictatorship.

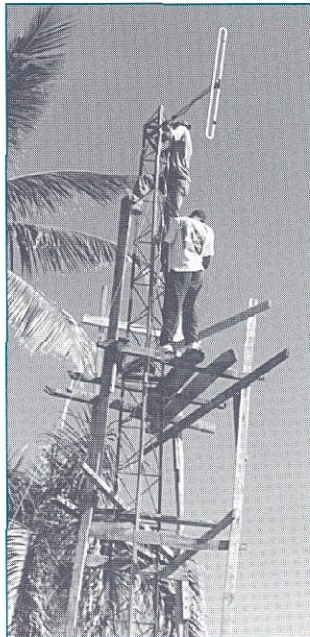
In the years that have followed, mass media has continued to play a major role in the movement for democracy—Radio Haïti Inter, a commercial station whose owner, journalist Jean Dominique, was gunned down on April 3; the clandestine radio stations that broadcast in the dead of night during the 1991-1994 coup d'état years; articles, interviews and regular columns in newspapers like the all-Creole *Libète* ("Liberty"), run by priests; leaflets and bulletins distributed by neighborhood associations, local unions and women's groups; and the new "community" or "popular" radio stations in the countryside all have been part of Haiti's struggle towards freedom.

Haiti has not yet achieved the liberty and justice her people have sought since the triumph of the slave revolution in 1804. Although the country recently held elections, unemployment is at 65 per-

cent; many adults are illiterate; most children never have more than a year or two of schooling; the minimum wage stands at about \$1.75 per day; over two million people suffer from malnutrition, and millions have no access to clean water or health care.

True democracy is the achievement of all basic human rights, meaning economic and social rights as well as political and civil rights. As long as a majority of the Haitian people is denied those rights, there will be a democratic movement, and the media to which so many dedicate their lives will continue to play a role: educating, informing, and raising peoples' consciousness.

Jane Regan is the executive director of Somerville Community Access Television in Somerville, MA. She moved back to the US after eight years working with community and popular media in Haiti.



**WHAT'S IN A WORD?** In Haiti, many of the media playing crucial roles in the democracy movement would not be defined as "community" media in the same way we define PEG access centers, which belong to "the community." In Haiti, in every hamlet, town and city, citizens are pitted one against one another in a struggle for control over the destiny of their country. Thus, a radio station located in a mountainside village might look like a "community" radio station, since the people running it appear to be poor, are speaking Creole, and interview local people. But if the radio station is owned by a large landowner, and the people working there are paid by him, it probably is not responding to the needs of the majority. On the other hand, a station that is under the control of a peasant organization, which is working for land reform, might not be called a "community radio station" by the Alliance for Community Media, since it is owned and controlled by a specific organization. Yet that station is working for social change, and in the interests of the majority. In Latin America, it would be called a "popular" or "people's" radio station ("radio popular"), or an "alternative" station, although many in the community/popular media movement in Latin America bristle at the term, saying "We are not 'the alternative'; we are the real representatives of the majority." The differing definitions of words, and the political and historic context behind them, are important to note when exploring the growing world wide community or popular media movement.



Thursday, 16 March 2000

Dear Christer,

Greetings from CTV Fiji—the website looks great.

We've been reading some information and it seems we are the only community television channel in the world which is broadcasting on VHF.

We're growing also—the Japanese Embassy has just donated significant funding for some new equipment—Fantastic! Also, WACC—World Association of Christian Communication—is again supporting us this year with the Canada Fund and UNESCO. Now that we have proven our sustainability and the motivation of our young volunteers, it seems we are becoming popular not only with our viewers but also with some funding agencies.

It is so exciting. We have also been offered a site in the capital city of Suva—and another on the north side of the island to extend. It will give us another 200,000 viewers, approximately!

The programs which are the most popular are the live “phone in” programs each night for a couple of hours when the public calls in with important topics—e.g. sexually transmitted diseases, breast cancers, pap smears and prostate problems (chatting with highly qualified medical consultants), environmental

and agricultural topics, road safety, sports, music and swimming—and this in an island nation in which less than quarter of the population swims!

We've currently added the new *Virtue* program to our anchor person's introduction each evening. I don't know if you know about it—these are positive aspects of life—courtesy, assertiveness, self-respect, etc. There are 52 of them—one for each week in the year and these are discussed on TV and in schools. They're also being translated into Fijian and Hindi by our students.

We have just had the honor being given the front page by the World Association of Christian Communication in the UK. Their magazine, *Action* is sent to every country in the

world. We're thrilled as the headlines are that Fiji benefits from community television and that we have “raised the level of television in the country.”

John, my husband and co-director, has been working for the past five days up the top of the mountain where our transmitter is situated and has been building a “faraday cage” which may eliminate the problem of lightening striking the mast and cutting us off. We have great engineers

assisting us, mainly gratis, and we're grateful to everyone—they now number in the thousands—those people who have supported this tiny channel in the middle of the Pacific.

We're all working very hard and looking forward to a consultant coming over from Canada [editor's note: this is a reference to Catherine Edwards, whose article on Nepal is on page 22 of this issue] to help us for a few months.

Christer, it's great to see what a handsome young man you are—just visited your own site—blessings to you Christer, all the very best...

Yours Sincerely,

Regina Yates

Dir. Trustee Community TeleVision

20 May 2000

Dear Christer,

Thank you kindly for your concern.

The day began with what was purported to be a march by 2000 supporters of the Taukei Movement and Nationalist Vanua Tako Lavo Party in protest of the 1990 Constitution. One of the main organisers said that the march was supposed to end before they reached the Parliament building.

A group of thugs with guns headed by businessman and civilian George Speight continued forward to the Parliament building, stormed the Cabinet while it was in session and took all the members present as hostages.

Speight is a “self declared” bankrupt who was a director of an Australian Investment company. Speight is extremely articulate and very precise and calculating.

The condemnation by all countries who have embassies in Fiji is total—they all state that the democratically elected People's Coalition must be restored.

The “coup” could not have happened at a worse time for Fiji. We're just beginning to get things right here! Shall write more tomorrow if we can send email through...we've had interrupted services.

Kindest Regards,

Regina and Crew.



*Editor's Note: For several years, Christer Hederström of Open Channels Sweden, has single-handedly been presenting The Global Village CAT — an essential website documenting community media world-wide [www.openchannel.se/cat]. Christer has also provided assistance to many, including Community Television Fiji. In light of the recent events in the Fiji Islands, the following correspondence is only to demonstrate the inherent value in international friendships.*



**May 21, 2000**

Things here are still pretty tense in the capital city, Suva, but out in other areas, not too much of a problem, just a few isolated incidents from young people letting off steam—kids who haven't had the benefit of an education and watch too many "shoot-em-ups" and garbage on the other commercial channel Fiji One, a New Zealand company that buys programs at the cheapest possible price and sells to their poorer Pacific Island nations.

These programs have had a decimating effect on this country.

If you have visited our website you may have noted we're an educational channel, free to air and non-commercial, broadcasting in three languages, many programs which we ourselves produce. We are all volunteers and dedicated to raising the quality of peoples' lives in this third world country. It's tough but gratifying to see the improvements from day to day and year to year. We have been training young people now for three and half years—there is no school for television in Fiji!

This "coup" will put things back considerably.

The sad thing for us here at CTV is that George Speight's father was prime minister briefly a few years ago and now runs the Rewa. He is one of our staunchest supporter! I really feel sorry for him.

Thank you for your kind thoughts and support.

Kindest Regards,

Regina Yates, Dir. Trustee CTV Fiji.

**May 22, 2000**

... The situation right now is that the self-proclaimed Prime Minister, George Speight, is now being joined by groups of 20 supporters at a time. Right now, Mr. Speight is escorting his self proclaimed ministers to their offices to "settle in..."

It is good to have friends overseas for sure. We operate totally on donations and as long as we have around \$5,000 per month coming in, we can continue. Right now however, none of the volunteers can get in to work at CTV as we're four kilometers off the main road and only one has a vehicle and the buses have gone on strike.

Is CTV still on the air?

Yes indeed, we are on air. We are continuing the live "phone-ins" so that all our audiences who are extremely concerned about the tension and need to talk about their worries and ideas can bring it into the open. It's a bit like a psychiatrist's chair! Talking about things openly is a form of healing and certainly it helps.

The relationship in general between the Fijians and the Indo



world.

Am glad you said that there might be someone out there to help us—we're really sweating on funds—let us know if there is a funding agency who might be able to donate

towards this dedicated channel. We mean to keep going until we have no more funding at all, then the phones and electricity will be cut off and we shall quietly be put to rest. However, that's some way off!!! We're here and fighting.

Kindest regards Christer,  
thanks for your warm support,

Yours,

Regina and John and the  
Volunteers at CTV.



**May 26, 2000**

*Dear Christer,*

The political and hostage situation in Fiji is currently stale-mate! The leader of the coup, George Speight, has still kept the hostages, (the prime minister and government ministers) incarcerated, and it is now into the eighth day.

The main problems facing the public in Fiji are the possible threats from groups of uneducated youths who don't know whom to target when they go on a rampage after a grog or beer session.

We're particularly concerned about funding to keep going right now as any overseas donors will give preference to stable countries. We're hoping that there will be some help from people who sympathize with what we are trying to do here at Community TeleVision—provide an education for those who have so far been unable to afford one.

The normal means of day-to-day running usually comes from the local community. They are now under threat of closing also so there won't be any help from them. We hope to operate until the funds run out. All the best to you—pray for us all in this tiny country in the Pacific, which sees the first light of the new dawn.

Regina Yates, Email: [ctv@is.com.fj](mailto:ctv@is.com.fj)

Community TeleVision Fiji: [www.openchannel.se/fiji/](http://www.openchannel.se/fiji/)



# FRANCE'S TÉLÉBOCAL

THE DEBATE OVER COMMUNITY MEDIA MODELS GOES ON

by Jeffrey Hansell

Paris is but a community of villages encircled by a wall. Divided into 20 districts or *arrondissements*, the first begins at The Louvre near the crowd gawking at the Mona Lisa, then the city spirals out clockwise like an escargot, finally ending in Père Lachaise cemetery at the foot of Jim Morrison's grave. This is the 20th *arrondissement*, often described as convivial, working class and eclectic. It is also the home of *Télébocal*: a low-power community TV station, a media arts facility, and a center of life in the neighborhood.

Housed behind a wall of beautifully disintegrating buildings, *Télébocal* shares space with four other groups, including a theatre troupe and a photo gallery. During an evening presentation that I attended, the gallery became an extra screening room and stage right was the cash bar. Everywhere else were TV monitors and folding chairs.

The show was due to begin at 8:00 pm, but, as often happens at public access stations in the U.S., there were technical difficulties that had to be overcome before the show could go on and the transmission sent out into this tiny quarter of Paris. Here however, the wine and conversation flowed freely, while a jazz band played to great effect—and no one seemed bothered by the delay or by the increasing numbers of people still straggling in from the *Cité Aubry*. Approximately one hour later, the countdown flashed on the TV screens and it was standing room only.

The program was a compilation of short films, comedy sketches, news coverage, person-on-the-street interviews, and two very funny music videos starring someone named Adonis. It was the best community media presentation I had ever seen.

Begun four years ago, *Télébocal* origi-



nally focussed on the production and exhibition of short films. Today their collaborations are regularly shown in over 100 local cafés and bars; at this abandoned building—a cultural heart of the quarter—known as “Goumen Bis,” on the Internet, and on occasional low-power TV broadcasts.

The members of *Télébocal*, headed by Richard Sovied, work fairly long days and nights shooting on Sony DVCAM and working in unheated editing rooms outfitted with Adobe Premiere. Sovied's singular “office” is crammed with tapes, computers, and people. Somehow, the members and supporters of *Télébocal* are able to produce regular broadcasts, a monthly newsletter, and a sophisticated website, as well as maintaining a hectic schedule of presentations all over Paris.

And if that were not enough, *Télébocal* has spent the last year in meetings, protests, and rallying fellow *télé-locales* as part of their political work in Media Libre, the

nation-wide political coalition formed to lobby for a non-commercial audio-visual sector: the result being a form of public access television, with supporting funds provided by the French government.

While Richard Sovied has been a leader and major factor in the successes Media Libre has had in taking its fight to the *Assemblée Nationale* and the *Sénat*—

at press time, it appears there has been an unfortunate split within Media Libre. Its adherents are taking sides against one another, endangering the possibility that France will move towards an “Open Channels” model, like her partners in the European Union.

The disagreement is familiar: one faction would like to “nationalize” public access (and benefit from government funding), and essentially

curate the programming, and act as an editorial board, putting them in direct opposition to the media collectives/centers who would be submitting the programs. Others, including *Télébocal* and *Ondes Sans Frontières* would rather keep their editorial rights and retain the “local” flavor of the programs and broadcasts, as well as benefit from government funding, too.

How things will turn out in France is far from clear at present. Even now, the debate continues throughout the days and nights, in meetings, phone calls and list-serv discussions.

A proponent of the public access model, Nathalie Magnan has said, “it is embarrassing that in the country where human rights were born, the freedom of speech is not fully realized.”

Yet even under these present circumstances and so far from the U.S., it is surprising to find in *Télébocal* the sort of organization that many public access centers would like to be: involved in the community, active in local/national public policy, and ready to share their limited resources. For *Télébocal*, keeping the idea of community media alive and well is just another day's work.

For more information go to: [www.telebocal.com](http://www.telebocal.com), [www.aleatv.org](http://www.aleatv.org), or [www.medialibre.org](http://www.medialibre.org)

Jeff Hansell is guest editor of this issue of *COMMUNITY MEDIA REVIEW* and executive director of Malden Access TV in Malden, MA. Contact him at [jeffh@matv.org](mailto:jeffh@matv.org)



*Medialibre.org*



# CONVERSATIONS IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

## PRESERVING AND PROMOTING A CULTURE OF DEMOCRATIC COMMUNICATIONS

by Leonhard Hansen

**N**o matter how one views the "Open Channels" concept today, there will be new challenges that must be met tomorrow, whether from changes in public financing or from a sociopolitical corrective action to the mass media spectrum itself.

In the face of ever-diminishing public funds, a justification of the **open channels** concept is required, to prove the right of existence of open channels, not only in theory, but also in practice—and in the pictures and sounds that are the results.

First, there are much greater expectations from the public that necessitate a further development of open channels. There is also a higher demand from the more interested user, as well as from the general user for a comparatively small offering of production and transmission capacities. Simply put, "the demand exceeds supply."

One must always balance the interests of the individual users against the expectations of the public. The question now, is *how* to institute operating principles that will allow access to greater numbers of people, without affecting content and still be fair to everyone?

At Open Channels Hamburg, our introduction of *Theme Days* and *Forums* is an attempt to meet the new challenges and demands for public access.

Historically speaking, the structure of the open channel involves a few formal rules and no content specifications. This is the "classic" open channel. The value of this prototypical form of "public access" has not decreased in recent years; in fact, the opposite has occurred.

In view of massive investment into the telecommunications sector and the current regulatory environment, "public access" is worth protecting now, more than ever.

And so the example of OK (short for Offenen Kanal) is still to ensure that all citizens have access to electronic media, and thus to take part in the formation of public opinion: uncensored and with each person taking responsibility.

In the current times of increasing globalization and commercialization of the society, community media becomes an extraordinarily important tool for preserving and promoting a culture of democratic communications. The open channel is the local factor making it possible for citizens to share a political and social life independent of the state and of large commercial interests.

The question that arises is: What way can the principles of open channels be developed ("loosened up") to accommodate an unaffiliated public?

With introduction of *Theme Days* and *Forums*, the operating procedures of OK Hamburg had to be redrawn around regular radio/TV transmissions of thematic programs (content-specific). Thus, the programming had to be defined as an additional offering apart from the "first-come, first-serve" principle.

On 3 May 1995, the first *Theme Day* premiered on OK Hamburg. From 4:00 in the afternoon until 10:00 p.m., individuals and groups took part in a radio broadcast commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of W.W.II in Germany. The programs included "the hour of zero," in which a historian used contemporary accounts to describe the events of May 3, 1945; and "a new start in rubble," in which a local woman reconstructed her personal memories of that day.

November 4, 1995 was the first *Theme Day* on television at OK Hamburg, which naturally was a greater technical challenge and more costly to produce.

*Africa Day* began in the TV studio at 11:11 a.m. and lasted until early the next morning—a marathon of sorts.

A number of *Theme Days* and *Forums* followed covering a wide range of subjects and participants:

Women, Jazz, Literature, Social Forums, Radio Latin America, World Radio, Schools etc. Sometimes there were fixed transmitting times, and sometimes they took place in a loose sequence. At times, the programs were produced independent of the OK editors and others with the lively and informal collaboration with our staff.

Since 1999, the producer/users have presented more and more live broadcasts and special events like the "Christopher's Street Day Spektakel" via ISDN. This year will see our first live streaming on the Internet and television transmission with webcams and chatrooms.

In the course of mounting these productions, the staff's job responsibilities had to be reorganized and restructured, albeit with great care, to avoid influencing content or to give undue exposure to one person over another; one organization over the other. And it is here where the positive strength of the media lends itself to the open channel concept. It is a chance for the everyday citizen and groups of unaffiliated citizens to participate together in an unstructured environment to see, hear, and take part in shaping public opinion.

Compared to other programs, this kind of show may seem unprofessional. But the yardstick for measuring the broadcast quality of the open channel is not the technically brilliant, slickly-edited 30-second sound bite, designed to please millions, and without any rough corners and raw edges.

So while all the world may talk about globalizing markets and world-wide networking, the open channel remains a local factor in providing a media space where each person can enter into the community discussion and bring his or her own experiences into context, and into full view.

— Translation and editing by Jeff Hansell

Leonhard Hansen is the chairman of Open Channels Hamburg, Germany. He may be contacted at: [lh@offener-kanal-hamburg.de](mailto:lh@offener-kanal-hamburg.de), [www.offener-kanal-hamburg.de](http://www.offener-kanal-hamburg.de)





# BELGRADE, SERBIA

## INDEPENDENT SERBIAN MEDIA SHOULD BE SUPPORTED

*Editor's note: B92 refers to the broadcast radio station. B2-92 refers to its Internet version.*

by Veran Matic

**B**ELGRADE—In the town of Ivanjica in central Serbia there are no independent media. Recently, members of the student movement Otpor (Resistance) were in their office listening to a Radio B2-92 satellite broadcast on demonstrations taking place throughout Serbia. Police broke in demanding to see a permit for rebroadcasting the satellite program.

The students explained that they were not rebroadcasting the program but listening to it. They were told that it was forbidden to listen to satellite broadcasts. A boy of 14 wearing a T-shirt with the movement's clenched fist logo was arrested.

In Serbia today, large numbers of underage young people are taken into custody. They are the most determined fighters in the struggle against the regime.

A children's revolution? The members and supporters of Otpor are for the most part young. Increasingly, though, older Serbs are joining them, disillusioned with the activities the democratic opposition parties.

Otpor is one of the Milosevic regime's two main targets. The other is the independent media. The past two years reveal a devastating record of repression against the media.

Twenty-six media employees have been murdered or killed. At

least 60 journalists have been arrested; six have been sentenced to prison terms.

Fines totaling more than 25 million dinars have been imposed under the Public Information Act on electronic and print media. Three daily newspapers have ceased to exist.

A draconian new Law Against Terrorism under consideration by the Serbian Parliament is almost certainly devised for use against the media.

I recently received an email message from a U.S. citizen asking me why the media in his country have not paid serious attention to the repression of media in Yugoslavia. "I have to listen to the BBC to find out what is happening because in this country all I can hear about is the latest sex scandal," he wrote.

I have no wish to point a finger at anyone else for what is happening in Serbia today. We are largely to blame for our inability to resist the regime of Slobodan Milosevic. However, I do believe that the international public has neglected events in Serbia.

The regime's repression is reaching a climax with the closing down of pivotal independent media, which foreshadows a total media blackout in Serbia.

Radio B2-92 was prepared for the latest raid with mechanisms

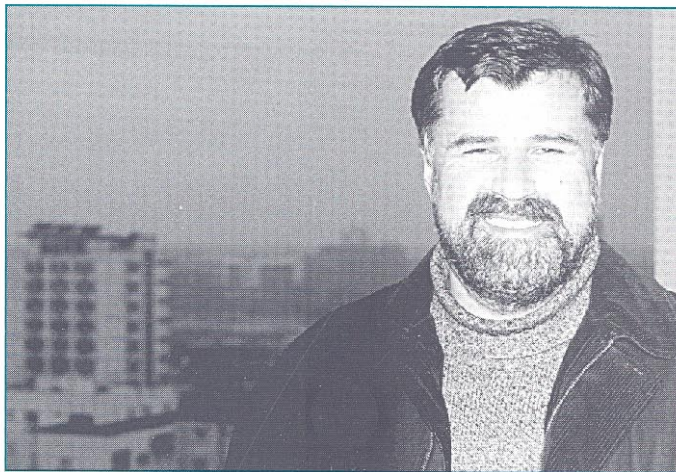


### VERAN MATIC CHARTS A BRAVE COURSE FOR B92

Veran Matic is the editor-in-chief of Radio B92, formerly Belgrade's leading independent radio station. He is also the chair of ANEM, the Association of Independent Electronic Media in former Yugoslavia, which currently groups some fifty independent local radio and television stations throughout the country.

Mr Matic has been engaged in journalism since 1984 with alternative and youth media in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana. He began his career with NTV Studio B, Belgrade's formerly independent television station. In May 1989 he helped found Radio B92.

The station was banned several times, but managed to continue broadcasting until it was illegally taken over by a group close to the government. On March 24, 1999, just hours



before the NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia began, the station was banned and Matic was briefly detained by police. Despite the ban, the station continued to broadcast via the Internet until the take-over.

Under Matic's guidance, Radio B92 set up and developed its Internet centre, OpenNet, the first Internet provider in the country; a publishing division which produced more than 30 titles, including books of

research and commentary on the wars in the former Yugoslavia and minority rights. Over time, Radio B92 became a focus of new, young intellectual and urban circles from all over Serbia and Montenegro, and collaborated with independent journalists in Kosovo, as well as organising a number of anti-war activities, social and cultural events and projects in the independent sector.

Radio B92's news programs

remain the core of the joint ANEM Radio Network programming, which provides independent news to audiences on some sixty percent of Yugoslav territory. ANEM is an umbrella organisation providing technical, programming, legal and training assistance to its members and seeking to promote democracy through the dissemination of independent information and closer links with other non-governmental organisations in the country and the region. ANEM consists of the ANEM Radio Network of 28 independent local radio stations, the ANEM Television Network of some twenty local television stations, ANEM Internet Media and the ANEM Legal Service, which provides defence for the media and journalists and has tackled a number of local and international actions to support media and journalists under repression.

Tune to Radio B92 or view ANEM-TV at [www.freeb92.net](http://www.freeb92.net)



already in place to counter it. After the regime once again hijacked the station and barred staff from entering the premises, the radio managed to resume broadcasting within hours on the Internet and by satellite via a network of independent broadcasters. Only Belgrade remains without independent news coverage.

International public opinion appears to be tiring of our struggle. One reason is that foreign journalists mistakenly identify independent media with the political opposition. In fact, the independent media have offered much more effective resistance to Mr. Milosevic than the opposition parties. That is why we, and not they, are now being targeted.

The independent media are rooted in Serbian society as pillars of the democratic movement. They are an irreplaceable factor in the democratization process and invaluable support for the democratic opposition. The independent print and electronic media, however, are not part of that opposition and especially not of those sectors most conspicuous for their inherent weaknesses.

Representatives of the international community frequently ask how they can help when there is no longer any forum for discussion with Mr. Milosevic, an indicted war crimes suspect with whom no one is prepared to negotiate. There is, however, still room for maneuver through diplomatic channels.

International figures unpopular even with the Serbian democratic public now head strategic projects for democratization. These include Javier Solana, the man who headed NATO during last year's bombing. He cannot be expected to be a darling of the Serbian public, democratic or otherwise.

Without independent and professional media, there will be no chance of establishing a normal, democratic and stable government after Mr. Milosevic finally falls. Nor will it be possible to initiate a process of reconciliation and normalization throughout the region.

There is a serious risk of a new government attempting to act outside democratic institutions. That would mean the replacement of one totalitarian regime by some new breed of East European "democratic dictatorship."

Defense of independent media is also defense of long-term peace and stability in the world and in Europe in particular.

— reprinted by permission of the author

# COMMUNITY MEDIA

## 'Channels to Freedom'

by Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke

A vibrant and independent press is the cornerstone of an open society—without it, democracy would not be democracy. It is also an indispensable part of the American idea—the conviction that societies derive much of their strength from a free and open exchange of ideas and opinions. And for over two centuries, defending press freedom has been an important part of our history—from John Peter Zenger, the German-born printer of the *New York Weekly* who challenged British rule in the American colonies; to Samuel Cornish and John Russworm, who founded the first African American newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, to speak out against racial injustice.

A free press is the ultimate check on tyranny and injustice. This is why the United States strongly supports the development and protection of independent and community medias around the world. It is why we help finance and organize programs to strengthen and bolster press freedoms, particularly in emerging democracies. It was just last April when the United States condemned the murder of an independent media reporter in Serbia, Slavko Curuvija. Slavko was, like many others, working around the world through independent media resources, attempting to offer an alternative to state-controlled media. And it was just a few weeks ago that the world mourned the loss of Kurt Schork, a brave and dedicated journalist who gave his life to reporting the truth in some of the world's most troubled places—the last being Sierra Leone.

As part of the Clinton Administration's efforts to promote independent media at the grassroots, the former U.S. Information Agency, which is now part of the Department of State, has funded the development of independent media throughout the world, in such disparate places as East Timor, Kosovo, and Burundi. Through the National Endowment for Democracy, we have funded numerous grassroots media projects in places such as Mongolia, which is breaking free from its communist past, to Rwanda, which is shaking off the legacy of a media that used to promote genocide.

Independent journalists have been crucial in focusing the world's attention on human rights abuses and injustices throughout the world. When my wife, Kati Marton, and I were in Angola in December, we met with Raphael Marques, a brave independent journalist in Luanda. Raphael was jailed for speaking out against oppressive government. With the help of organizations like the Committee to Protect Journalists (of which Kati is the former chair) and the Soros Foundation, Marques is now, at least temporarily, free. That is why organizations such as the Alliance for Community Media are so important; you provide a vital support network for community media in this country, which is inextricably linked to the media beyond our borders. I commend you for your work in the United States and on your behalf, will continue working for a free press throughout the world.

Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke is the U.S. Representative to the United Nations. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 1993-1994 before being appointed by President Clinton as Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs in 1994. During that time, he was the chief negotiator for the historic 1995 Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia. He has served on a pro-bono basis as the Special Presidential Envoy in Bosnia and Kosovo, where he negotiated the October 1998 agreement, and, after it was violated, delivered the final ultimatum to Belgrade on March 23, 1999, prior to the NATO bombing campaign.

Ambassador Holbrooke has been very active in the nonprofit arena, especially in the area of refugee assistance. He was chairman of Refugees International from 1996 to 1999 and was twice a member of the board of the International Rescue Committee. He was the founding chairman of the American Academy in Berlin, a center for U.S.-German cultural exchange, and has been a director of the Council on Foreign Relations.



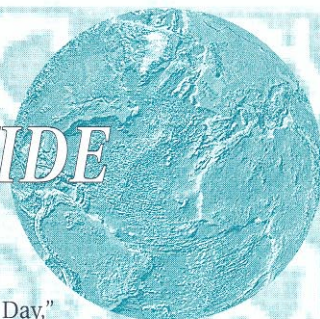


*Editor's note: It seemed an appropriate issue to address efforts underway to establish citizens' right to media access worldwide. The following from the Society for Old and New Media's [Amsterdam, NL] website is one such initiative. It is reproduced here in its British English version. To sign the petition, visit [www.waag.org/pcc](http://www.waag.org/pcc).*

The eighteen articles of the People's Communication Charter can be summed up with these five key themes:



# COMMUNITY MEDIA WORLDWIDE



*A guide to some of the public access channels, community media centers, open channels, independent medias, and media collectives/coalitions from around the world.*

*To translate foreign language web pages, go to:  
<http://babelfish.altavista.com/>*

## **The Global Village CAT**

[www.openchannel.se/cat/](http://www.openchannel.se/cat/)

Worldwide links to 350 Public Access Television sites in 15 countries, and other links related to the movement for the Freedom of Speech. The international source guide for community media, presented by Christer Hederström, [hederstrom@openchannel.se](mailto:hederstrom@openchannel.se)

## **VOYAGER Project**

(Videos of Youth Awareness—Generating European Relationships)

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/connect/uk-014.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/connect/uk-014.html)

## **AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters)**

[www.amarc.org/AMARC/AMARC\\_En](http://www.amarc.org/AMARC/AMARC_En)

A nongovernmental organization serving the community radio movement, with nearly 3,000 members and associates in 106 countries.

## **Community Media Organization U.K**

[www.commedia.org.uk](http://www.commedia.org.uk)

News, information, services and a gateway to community media organisations in the UK and worldwide.

## **Offene Kanäle Deutschland**

[www.ins.net/offener-kanal-dortmund/adressen.htm](http://www.ins.net/offener-kanal-dortmund/adressen.htm)  
“Open Channels” listing of 73 channels throughout Germany, provided by OK Dortmund.

## **Médias Libres**

[www.medialibre.org](http://www.medialibre.org)

The “free media” movement in France, working towards the legislation of a non-commercial media sector, to include a form of public access television.

## **Human Rights Multimedia**

[www.hrmdhm.com](http://www.hrmdhm.com)

The website for “Human Rights Every Day,” produced by Frédéric Eiguer, [redaction@hrmdhm.com](mailto:redaction@hrmdhm.com)

## **Community Television Fiji**

[www.openchannel.selfiji](http://www.openchannel.selfiji)

## **VIDEAZIMUT**

[www.tao.ca/videazimut/index.html](http://www.tao.ca/videazimut/index.html)

Videazimut is an international nongovernmental coalition promoting audiovisual communication for development and democracy.

## **Baltic Media Centre**

[www.bmc.dk](http://www.bmc.dk)

An independent, nonprofit foundation (NGO) promoting democracy, social development, and peaceful international cooperation through the active participation of the media.

## **Media Channel**

[www.mediachannel.org](http://www.mediachannel.org)

A new organization with media affiliates from across the globe—original news, discussion forums—a media and democracy supersite.

## **Committee to Protect Journalists**

[www.cpj.org/](http://www.cpj.org/)

A nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the global defense of press freedom.

## **National Endowment for Democracy**

[www.ned.org](http://www.ned.org)

A private, nonprofit, grant-making organization created to strengthen democratic institutions around the world.

## **Radio B92**

[www.freeb92.net](http://www.freeb92.net)

The internet home for Radio B92 and ANEM (Association of Independent Electronic Media) and an international source of information and news reporting about the Balkans, includes cultural links and video clips.



# TOO LATE FOR UKRAINE?

## CITIZEN ACCESS TO MEDIA LOST IN RUSH TO CAPITALISM

by Tim Goodwin

Imagine a country where the favorite cable channel is the Discovery Channel, and 24 channels go for about two dollars a month; where by law movies on television aren't interrupted with commercials, and regular programming with only six minutes of advertising an hour, at the top and bottom of the hour; where media ownership is limited to no more than two television channels and three radio stations, not just in a market, but for the whole country.

Progressive, you say. But this is also a country where journalism can be a life threatening profession; where the state still dominates the airwaves; where only a decade ago typewriters had to be registered like lethal weapons, and copy machines were all owned by the state; a place where smart cable operators hire Alpinists to string coax on the sides of buildings to thwart theft; and one where the notion of media literacy and community media is almost non-existent.

Welcome to Ukraine, atop the Black Sea in eastern Europe, a nation fought over for centuries and most recently of the Soviet Union. It was here the Russian nation was born a millennium ago. It's a country of contradictions, still struggling to make sense of its new freedoms and market economy. Despite some progressive media statutes, the legal framework for media is still developing. Laws governing cable are scant, on satellite almost nil. The concept of "public" television is barely referenced, and there is nothing on the books at all about community media. A web search shows no hits, and even a search for "independent media in Ukraine" turns up meager pickings.

Ukraine is not some "undeveloped" country. It is perhaps, as former US Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering once said of that country, only "misdeveloped." Literacy in Ukraine is near 100 percent, and the country's history is rich with scientific and cultural accomplishments.

Ten years on after the iron curtain was raised, like all of the constituent nations of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine is still defining its freedoms. State run radio and television channels vie with private, commercial outlets for advertising dollars. Non-governmental institutions that Americans take for granted, the prod-



CMR Managing Editor Tim Goodwin, center bottom, with [left to right standing] Slava Golovchenko, Andrei Karin, Gleb Golovchenko, and [kneeling] Elena Sorokopud and Tatiana Mochenyova of the Higher School of Press and Television in Nikolaev, Ukraine.

*...while the West has come to its media through evolutionary processes, these former communist countries are arriving through revolutionary means, a shock wave of new ideas and technology without an institutional memory to frame the debate.*

ucts of a civil society, are still stumbling to find a foothold here. And while the West has come to its media through evolutionary processes, these former communist countries are arriving through revolutionary means, a shock wave of new ideas and technology without an institutional memory to frame the debate.

If ever a country could use a little community media, Ukraine is one—an underserved community with a lot on its mind and few means to express itself. Commercial media relatively thrives by comparison, but broadcast towers and offset printing presses are still mostly the province of the state, and opposition independent media are still routinely harassed by the government.\*

There is no organized community media movement evident in Ukraine, but there is an interest and a thirst for native language [Ukrainian and Russian] media literacy materials, regardless the medium—print, audio, video or digital—and Western models of community media as well.

More evident today are Western models of advertising-driven media—in radio, television, and cable. American

movies dominate television fare, and cable channels emanate mostly from the West. Ukrainian viewers and listeners, despite a limited amount of advertising allowed, are assaulted nonetheless by advertising over the airwaves just like Americans. It is media literacy under fire, not unlike our own lifetime of experience.

There are some bright spots, however. A nascent movement, exemplified by one young, private educational institution, is making some inroads. The Higher School of Press and Television in Nikolaev, Ukraine, along the Black Sea, is a journalism college

trying to bring some sense to the changes in media that the nation has undergone this past decade. It is almost an anomaly—new, private and progres-

sive—where state sponsored Soviet style education is still the norm. The school is riding a choppy sea of change in this country of 52 million, and though its focus is journalism, it's poised to be more.

"We are on the boat somewhere from the island to the land,"



says Slava Golovchenko, one of the school's directors, describing his country's civil and political evolution since the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Frustrated by a lack of quality internships for their students in the local media, school administrators have begun to create their own. The school was discussing construction of a radio station with an American company. A newspaper was being launched this year. An electronic newsletter on the web was operating. And bolstered by the donation of a former public school building from the local administration, the school finds itself at the junction of two local cable television systems with excess channel capacity. Plans for the building include turning it into one big, wired laboratory. The school has used the technical assistance of western aid organizations, such as the Citizens Democracy Corps [[www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org)] and International Executive Service Corps [[www.iesc.org](http://www.iesc.org)], but it is still very much of an experiment in new ways in an old country.

There is a profound need for media literacy materials in Ukrainian and Russian. Ukraine is a talented and potentially rich country. It is also one of Europe's largest countries in population and size, too big to ignore.

Have we missed the boat in these countries? Must community media follow on the heels of commercial interests? Is economic prosperity a prerequisite?

The need to be empowered, not impoverished, by media, is critical. Community media should have been represented at the table in the early '90s, when telecommunications policy was first being debated in the countries of the former Soviet Union. Other western interests and institutions were. But Ukrainians, like their former Soviet brothers, appear condemned to repeat our experience in securing citizens the right to access.

More outreach efforts, like those in Tomsk, Russia [see article this issue, page 20] and what's happening in Nikolaev, Ukraine, need to be implemented on a grander scale. The mass-cult is being created, and citizen access to media isn't.

Too late for Ukraine? We know from our own experience, it's not, it's just a more difficult and longer road. Community media activists in the West may have no profit incentive to drive them, but we do have a moral prerogative to proceed.

*Tim Goodwin is managing editor of Community Media Review and president of City Media, Inc. He recently spent three months in Ukraine as a consultant with the U.S.-based Citizens Democracy Corps working with several schools, a cable company and a daily newspaper. He may be reached at [goodwin@usxchange.net](mailto:goodwin@usxchange.net)*

\*For an overview of independent media in Ukraine and the former Soviet Union, visit Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's website at [www.rferl.org/newsline/1999/03/5-NOT/not-120399.html](http://www.rferl.org/newsline/1999/03/5-NOT/not-120399.html) or Oxford University's site at <http://pcmlp.socleg.ox.ac.uk/transition/>

## COPEN & LIND

Cable / Access Consultants



Developing  
community  
communications  
by working with  
state and local  
governments,  
cable advisory  
boards, PEG  
access/media  
centers, and  
educational  
institutions

### From renewals to equipped facilities:

- Community Ascertainments
- Franchise Renewals & Negotiations
- Telecommunications Planning
- PEG Access Evaluations
- PEG Access Plans & Start-ups
- Management Consulting
- Work Plans & Implementation
- National Executive Director Searches
- Facility Renovation, Plans & Designs
- Site Negotiations and Feasibility Studies
- Contractor Selection & Oversight
- Equipment Package Design, & Installation
- Engineering & Computer Services
- Network and I-Net Development

### Supporting the Alliance for Community Media

22 Ward St. • Amherst, MA 01002 • [copenandlind@earthlink.net](mailto:copenandlind@earthlink.net)  
Telephone: 413-256-4902 • Fax: 413-256-4944

## BEYOND THE BIG SCREEN: The Impact of Digital Conversion

National Association of  
Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

September 13-16, 2000

The Biltmore Hotel  
Los Angeles, CA

## NATOA 2000 20th Annual Conference

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 15, 2000 – 7:00 pm  
15th Annual Government  
Programming Awards Gala

For complete program information  
as it becomes available, visit our  
website at [www.natoa.org](http://www.natoa.org)



# TOMSK, RUSSIA

## AN INTERVIEW WITH TOMSK TV2'S LEONID PROKOF'EV

*The following is a recent interview between Hye-Jung Park, former program director of Downtown Community TV Center and currently Project Director of Youth Vision at Manhattan Neighborhood Network, and Leonid Prokof'ev of Tomsk TV-2 in Russia.*

### **Please briefly tell us about Tomsk City.**

The Tomsk region is located in the southeast of the West-Siberian Plain and occupies an area of 314,000 square kilometers. As of January 1, 1993 there were over one million residents in the Tomsk region, which is the oldest educational and scientific center in Russia to the east of the Urals. There are seven institutions of higher education in Tomsk and about 60,000 students from different parts of Russia: the Near Eastern and Asian and Pacific nations. Tomsk is often referred to as the Siberian Athens.

### **Since Perestroika, how has the media scene changed in Russia?**

Before Perestroika, state TV and newspapers were the only sources for the information in the USSR. But in 1990, the Soviet government passed a new media law, which abolished a state monopoly on mass media and allowed an independent/commercial media. Since then, a lot of independent media groups have emerged in Russia: newspapers, magazines, advertising companies and private broadcasting companies. There weren't only Moscow-based but, regional and local independent media groups, as well.

### **Tell us about TV stations and other media groups in Tomsk.**

Presently, there are six local TV stations in Tomsk, one is a state local TV station, five are commercial. Tomsk TV-2 was one of the first stations in Russia and the first in Tomsk to take an advantage of the 1990 law. Tomsk TV-2 was founded in November 1990 and went on the air in May 1991.

Since it started broadcasting in 1991,



**Natalie Neptune tapes Katya Kiriouchkina interviewing a country laborer.**

CRAIG RENAUD

Tomsk TV-2 has worked to surmount the history of official misinformation, fashioning a new model of independent, critical reporting. It continues to prove its commitment to an open and inclusive media in its broadcast reports.

It has also established the Tomsk Community TV School, a community based media center where citizens, once excluded from participation in the dissemination of information, now learn the craft of television production. Tomsk Community TV School is the only institution in Tomsk that is creating non-commercial TV programs.

### **How did Tomsk Community TV School develop?**

The idea evolved from the collaboration of one American, Downtown Community TV's Jon Alpert, and one Russian, TV-2's Arkady Mayofis and with the additional support of "Internews".

In 1996, USAID (United States Agency for International Development) drafted financial support for this project. Modern digital shooting and editing equipment was acquired and in September the first group of students was levied and the training was started.

Two sophisticated instructors from

DCTV, Martin Lucas and Duncan Cameron, came to Tomsk for one month to help TV-2 people acquaint themselves with the new equipment and taught a basic video production workshop.

By 1997, the students first efforts were presented to TV-2's viewers and in March, a new TV program *Ellipsis* [*Mnogototchie*] debuted over the airwaves. Over the summer, three students from New York visited Tomsk for two weeks, while six students from Tomsk went to New York. During the visits, students of both countries gained the unique experience of producing international TV reports. Then, in July, TV-2 organized a Summer Youth Media Camp involving 80 young people from the Tomsk region.

In the fall our enrollment increased with the entry of a new crop of TV School students, with the advanced students teaching the new students.

Late in 1998, TV-2 and DCTV became members of SPAN, a joint project of USAID and IREX. This project helped to fund additional facilities for more advanced training and for the production of more advanced TV programs.

Over the last two years, the TV



School has held summer media camps, youth video festivals, and our students have produced a number of regular series programs: *War or Peace*, *American Medley*, *Graffiti in Siberia*.

#### What is the mission of Tomsk TV?

To provide a social support system for talented young people and to educate a new generation of TV producers.

We are focusing on youth, because we have a very difficult economic situation in Russia; many people are living on the edge of poverty. The upturn of this situation partly depends on whether Russian youth can have an active social life and interact within a civilized community. The TV School gives young people of Tomsk an opportunity to express themselves and learn about themselves through mass media. We feel that we are also offering young people an opportunity to pursue a more prestigious career.

When students have finished their studies, many continue to improve their skills: they create their own reportages and stories about city events, interesting people and the problems of youth. Some of the best works of the students are also aired on TV-2.

#### Looking back, what have been the School's main accomplishments in the last few years?

Tomsk youth have learned a creative way of self-expression by making stories and reports about subjects in which they're really worried or interested.

In four years, the TV School has trained more than 50 young people. Some of our former students are already successfully working at TV-2 and other local television companies. Due to the international exchange, young people are better able to understand the differences and the common interests between Russian and American youth.

For further information, contact Leonid Prokof'ev, Tomsk TV-2, 51 A Yelizarovikh St., Tomsk, 634012, Russian Federation, phone 7.3822.541.800, fax 7.3822.540.717, or email at [dcv@tv2.tomsk.su](mailto:dcv@tv2.tomsk.su); also [hyejung@mnn.org](mailto:hyejung@mnn.org); or Tatiana Loureiro at DCTV, [tatiana@dctvny.org](mailto:tatiana@dctvny.org).



Pro TV reporters, Victor Hui (left) and Natalie Neptune (right with camera) in action in Tomsk, Siberia.

CRAIG RENAUD

Cable TV LawManager is a trademark of Etrok. Copyright © 1998. Etrok. All rights reserved. No programmers were harmed in the making of Cable TV LawManager.

## HAVE INC.

AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNOLOGIES

#### BLANK MEDIA

SONY • FUJI • MAXELL • BASF • HBB

#### CABLE & SUPPLIES

CANARE • BELDEN • MOGAMI

#### VIDEO & AUDIO DUPLICATION

- VHS, 3/4", BETA SP DUPLICATION
- AUDIO/CASSETTE DUPLICATION
- CD/CD-ROM REPLICATION
- INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CONVERSION
- 800# FULFILLMENT
- CUSTOM DESIGN & PACKAGING
- MACROVISION ANTICOPY PROTECTION

**Special Discounts for Alliance Members!**

**Just Mention This Ad.**

**1-888-776-3712** toll free

**fax: 1-518-828-2008**

**e-mail: [have@haveinc.com](mailto:have@haveinc.com)**

**web: [www.haveinc.com](http://www.haveinc.com)**

**309 Power Avenue**

**Hudson • NY • 12534-2448**

**CALL TODAY FOR A FREE CATALOG AND BROCHURE!**

Since 1977, doing business by the "Golden Rule"



Cable TV  
**LawManager™**

Available  
exclusively from... **etrok**

PO Box 30550  
Jackson Hole, WY 83001

**1.800.883.8765**

**1.307.734.2734** (fax)

[lawmanager@etrok.com](mailto:lawmanager@etrok.com)  
<http://www.etrok.com>



# TANSEN, NEPAL

## THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES FOR A BRAVE COMMUNITY TV STATION

by Catherine Edwards

Several years ago, I read an article in *Community Television Review* [now *CMR*] entitled "Shooting Sacred Cows in the Himalayas." It was about a tiny community access channel called Ratna Cable in Tansen, Nepal. Intrigued, I sent Ratna Cable an email for more information. After the exchange of several more emails, what emerged was a picture of a very equipment-poor, struggling group of video volunteers who had never had any formal training. Nevertheless, they had been cablecasting a local program about their town and its inhabitants for a year, every Saturday. Since I'd been a volunteer trainer at Shaw Cable 10 in Calgary, Alberta for four years, and I had developed training course materials during that time, I offered to visit and assess their skills, and to provide training, where appropriate. They leapt at the opportunity, and in March of 1999, I spent 10 days working with them in their hillside studio. This article is an update of their successes and frustrations since the original article appeared.

Mahesh and Bouddha Shakyas started Ratna Cable TV out of their VCR/TV repair shop in Tansen, a town in the lower Himalayas.

In the early 1990s, the Shakyas began recording satellite programming and cabling together their neighbors' homes. In the absence of formal telecommunications law, some other de facto cable companies began to do the same thing all over Nepal. Soon many companies started charging subscription fees. While a few considered using cable TV to distribute local TV programs, only Ratna Cable TV has actually done so on a regular basis.

Ratna's programming has included local news/event coverage, talk shows on health and women's issues, and political forums. The people of Tansen find the existence of the local channel and its content empowering. "It's not just important people on TV, it's us too", a viewer told me. Moreover, Ratna Cable is the only source of Nepali-language programming in the country other than the government-run Nepal TV.

Today, it is now possible to obtain a government license to redistribute satellite programs in Nepal and many of those informal cable companies are now legal. However, those same licenses expressly prohibit the distribution of locally originated programs, putting Ratna in a precarious position. According to Mahesh, as long as Ratna steered clear of politically sensitive subject matter, he could rely on the goodwill of local governmental bodies to protect Ratna from legal sanctions from the Ministry of Information



At a recent volunteer training session at Ratna Cable TV, Jyotsna uladhar, Deepa Sharma, and Neelam Shrestha try their hand at camera operation

and Communications in Kathmandu.

This has tended to cripple the development of the volunteers' journalistic abilities. Although they have tackled culturally sensitive issues such as HIV, it is impossible to deal with subject matter that directly challenges the political status quo. Even when they follow these unspoken rules, they are still in danger.

Space Time, a large commercial cable company, opened a Tansen office last year offering more channels than Ratna and charging subscription fees. To protect its network and the principle of

local programming, Ratna invested heavily in new decoders to keep pace with Space Time. Ratna also began charging subscription fees, for the first time. By 1999, Ratna Cable had 13 channels compared to Space Time's 18, but most viewers remained loyal because they liked Ratna's Saturday local program (called, what else: *The Local Program*).

Space Time's Tansen agent, frustrated at this situation, collected video clips from *The Local Program* and edited them out of context to make them look as if Ratna was a supporter of Nepal's United Marxist Leninist Party. Maoist guerrillas have been involved in violent incidents in western Nepal for several years, and this was enough to cause Nepal's Ministry of Information and Communications to fine Ratna 7000 rupees and to suspend their license. Mahesh was also threatened with imprisonment.

Thanks to Ratna's local protectors however, Mahesh avoided prison and Ratna was able to start up again under the new name of Shrinagar Cable last August, but their position remains tenuous.

Nepal itself has only been a democracy since 1991, so the story of Ratna Cable is one of a country learning what democracy means. Until a fair and universal licensing system exists for regional television in the country, it will be impossible for TV journalists to exercise their right of freedom of expression. In fact, what I found most interesting in my training sessions was that the volunteers had difficulty with the basic idea of what it means to "have a voice." Their stories, while beautifully and creatively produced, tended to be light on message. I determined early on that where they needed most work was in scripting. But when I stood in front of their nine attentive faces and asked them what they were personally interested in researching and what they thought their neighbors might want to hear about, they had difficulty coming up with ideas!

Unlike their North American counterparts, who in my experience all seem to walk into access centers with their own personal



axe to grind (that's why they come), these shy, self-deprecating people had trouble knowing what they wanted to say. They would come up with a general idea like "a story about handicapped people," but it was hard work to get them to the point that they could figure out what angle to take.

The country seems to be headed in the right direction, however. The first independent, community-based radio station in South Asia was licensed in Kathmandu in 1997. It has had tremendous support so far from the population, NGOs, and Nepal's leadership. When I spoke last year to Mr. Kedar Thapa, Joint Secretary of the Frequency Control Division at the Ministry of Information and Communications, he acknowledged the good work being done at Shrinagar. He said, however, that he fears that small cable companies that are unregulated and unmonitored could become prey to partisan politics. When I contacted him recently to ask about the fine levied against Ratna Cable last summer, he declined to comment.

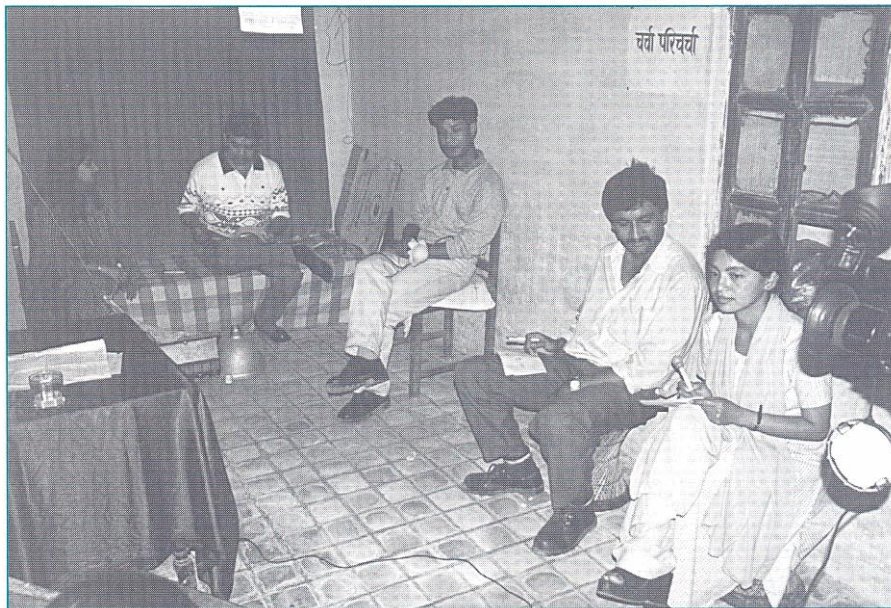
Shrinagar Cable's position remains precarious for other reasons as well. The equipment originally donated by Worldview and the Asia Foundation is breaking down. In the new environment of media licenses, the station is unlikely to be able to obtain further outside assistance without a license to cablecast their own programs. Foreign organizations are justifiably nervous about channeling money into projects that may be shut down by an unsupportive government. In the meantime, Shrinagar's volunteers are becoming tired of having to produce programming with no professional guidance, training, or remuneration week after week.

They would like to transition to a partly funded model, where one or two paid staff could guide their efforts and plan each week's programming. It seems an achievable goal once the decoders are paid off. Mr. Shakya estimates that the revenues liberated will enable him to hire two people to run the cable business and two people to create local programming. Nothing is certain however in the rapidly changing legal climate. As cable distribution becomes a bigger business in Nepal, adequate legislation will become ever more necessary to protect the investment that companies like Shrinagar are willing to make.

There have been stirrings about community access television in other parts of the country as well. Special dispensations to produce local Nepali-language programming have been given by the Nepali government to two other cable companies: Shangri-La and Space Time. To date, however, neither has launched. Space Time has a studio, broadcast-standard equipment, and several hundred hours of stockpiled local programming, but as of the date of writing, there was no committed on-air date. Pockets of interest in community programming have sprung up in at least three other places in Nepal. Mr. Mohan Maineli, of the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, told me that he had visited groups of journalists and local citizens in Phidim and Biratnagar in eastern Nepal who were interested in the idea of starting a community TV station. In Phidim, the cable company had been approached about the possibility of cablecasting Nepal TV programs, development programs and local programs. The cable company was willing, but

the idea hasn't progressed due to lack of funds for tape duplication or equipment. Other sources told me that a cablecaster in Butwal had expressed an interest in producing local programming, but was told by the Ministry of Information and Communications that it could not do so without a license.

Meanwhile, back at Shrinagar Cable, Mr. Shakya cues a videotape and looks at his watch. It's almost time for another episode of *The Local Program*....Mahesh, Bharat, Neelam, Deepa, Jyotsna, Bhakti, Anil, and Rajeshwor crowd into a small low-ceilinged room that has been painted blue and from which the light has been blocked with thick curtains. It's Mahesh's basement, Shrinagar's studio for six years now. Bhakti seats herself at a desk and smiles experimentally into the lens of a camera positioned on a tripod a



**In the Ratna Cable TV studio, volunteers practice their interviewing skills.**

few feet away. Anil fiddles with its controls. Mahesh adjusts a light to remove harsh shadows from Bhakti's face. Bharat fastens a homemade microphone onto the front of her clothing. The others look on. It will be their turn soon. They're excited to be participating, like community access volunteers anywhere.

Shrinagar Cable is located in an extremely beautiful area of Nepal, a half-day's journey from popular trekking start-points. The staff welcomes visitors; especially visitors bearing spare parts or cast-off equipment! If you are interested in helping Shrinagar Cable, please contact me at my address below.

*Catherine Edwards has been involved in community access television as a volunteer, staff trainer, producer, and interested supporter since 1987. She is currently collecting information for a six-part documentary series about community-access television world-wide. She hopes to raise the public profile of what is happening in Canada, as well as to tell good news stories about the spread of access in other countries. In addition to teaching in Nepal last year, she intends to travel to Fiji in 2000 to share skills and experience, and to shoot the first episode in the series. She invites American programmers (or elsewhere) to share their access successes, challenges or views on community programming and where it's going to contact her, with the possibility of being featured in the series. Catherine won a Galaxi award in 1997 for the best community newsmagazine program on an access station in Canada. She has won several "Best of the Northwest" awards and a short 16 mm film, "Mother-Daughter Love" was screened in festivals in 13 countries. Contact her at 403.277.4170, at [warr@nucleus.com](mailto:warr@nucleus.com), or at [edwardscatherine@nucleus.com](mailto:edwardscatherine@nucleus.com)*



# SOUTH KOREA

## VIEWER PARTICIPATION GETS THE NOD

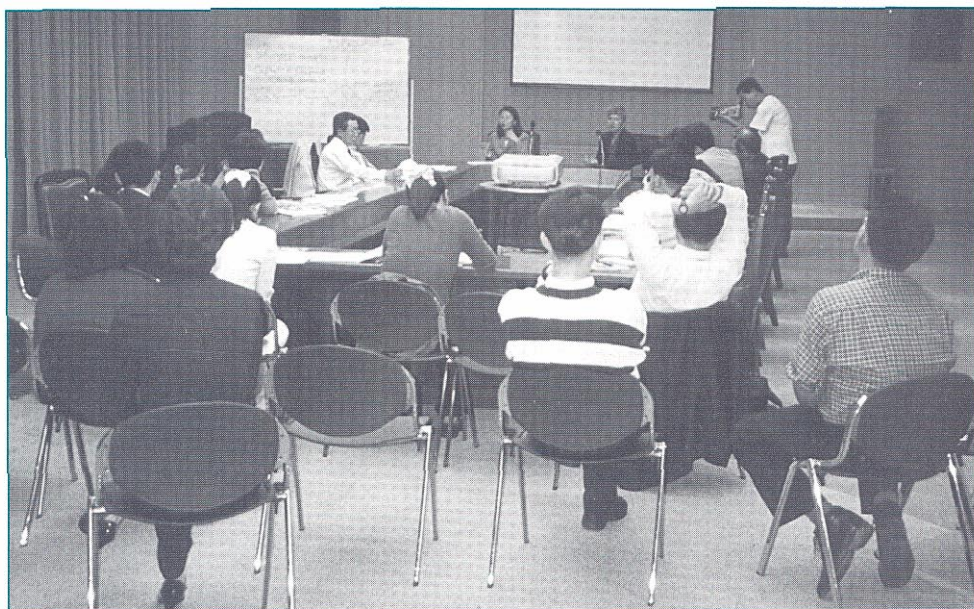
by **Bunnie Riedel**

In October 1999, I travelled to South Korea to visit my husband Daniel Gartland, who was doing a year-long tour of duty at Osan Air Force base. During the course of my stay, I had the privilege of visiting the Korean Broadcasting Institute.

Myoung Joon Kim, whom I had met at the Alliance national conference in Cincinnati, arranged my visit to the Institute. Between Cincinnati and the October trip, Myoung and I had kept in touch by email and in advance of the trip, I sent Myoung a box of our literature which included the *Community Media Review* and the *Petition for Media Democracy*.

The Korean Broadcasting Institute is an independent organization that was established by the South Korean government. It is staffed by academics and former journalists who study media and make recommendations for its improvement. There is no doubt that this task is taken quite seriously by the Institute and tremendous resources have been dedicated to its mission. I was quite impressed with the building the Institute occupies. And I was quite impressed with the people I met during my brief encounter.

Dr. Kyung-Ja Lee, the president of the Institute, warmly welcomed me and after exchanging pleasantries and taking photographs, we were all escorted to a beautiful luncheon at the



**Bunnie Riedel addresses the Korean Broadcasting Institute.**

elegant restaurant in the Institute. I was asked a lot of questions regarding Public, Educational and Governmental access including—how it came into being, how it is funded, how many channels we have and what our relationship with the cable companies is like. Dr. Lee was surprised to learn about franchise fees and she immediately saw our model of franchising as advantageous to providing community media. At this time, only about fifteen percent of homes in South Korea have cable, but I was told that both Time Warner and AT&T are moving into South Korea to provide cable services.

South Korea is a country which is undergoing rapid change and expansion, everywhere you go there are huge construction cranes putting up bridges and buildings. The economy has done quite well, even in the face of the Asian financial crisis, and it is obvious that a great deal of attention is being paid to the modernization of the infrastructure throughout the country. Dr. Lee listened intently as I described our system of providing a media that invites people to be active participants rather than just passive recipients.

After the luncheon, she and I parted with a handshake, and I was taken to a large meeting room where about twenty people had gathered. Some were staff of the Institute, others were researchers, academics and students, and others were representatives of non-governmental agencies (NGOs). For almost two hours I spoke and answered questions.

The whole thing made me a bit nervous because I knew that for several years an attempt had been made to get the South Korean legislature to pass a law allowing “viewer participation” programming. I also knew how important that legislation was to



**...with Myoung Joon Kim**



a country that has struggled to move itself toward democracy and increased openness in the face of a fifty year-old conflict and the frequent belligerence of North Korea. I chose my words carefully, knowing that what I said that day could make a difference one way or the other.

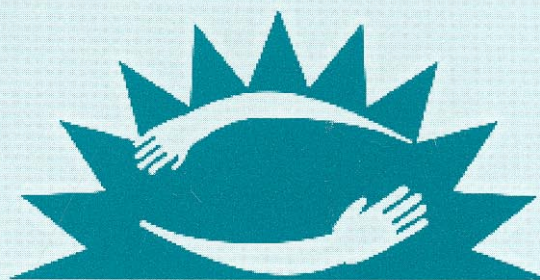
At one point it was mentioned that Dirk Koning had made a similar presentation some four years before. There were those in the audience who were very aware of the Alliance for Community Media and our advocacy for media democracy here in the states and abroad. I felt proud to be part of an ongoing process of education and advocacy that resonates beyond Capitol Hill and the FCC. I felt proud to be part of an organization that reaches far beyond our own borders, one that touches the lives of people we will never meet.

At the end of the day, Myoung Joon Kim and I said our farewells and promised to stay in touch. In March 2000, I received an email from Myoung telling me that the South Korean legislature had passed a law allowing "viewer participation" programming on the public broadcasting system, cable and satellite. I don't really know what impact, if any, my presentation made in all this. The legislation had been in the hopper for quite some time and many, many people had been working on getting this law passed. Perhaps my visit renewed a spark or gave additional courage to those who were working on the bill. I would like to think that was the case. I am just thrilled to have been a cog in the wheel and thrilled that I, Dirk and many others involved with the Alliance, contributed to this victory.

*Bunnie Riedel is executive director of the Alliance for Community Media. Contact her at [briedel@alliancecm.org](mailto:briedel@alliancecm.org) or telephone at 202.393.2650.*



**...with Dr. Kyung-Ja Lee, President of the Korean Broadcasting Institute.**



## International Community Media Festival

### SEE THE WORLD AS THE WORLD SEES ITSELF

Many of us have grown up watching *National Geographic* documentaries on "exotic" places around the world. Add this to the constant stream of CNN-like news broadcasting and we are often left with a very limited view of what the rest of the world not only looks like, but how the rest of the world sees itself.

On November 10-11, 2000, the Community Media Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan will be hosting its *Fourth Annual International Community Media Festival*. The purpose of this festival is in some ways a counter balance to the type of broadcast programming mentioned above. More importantly, the festival is a way to showcase the work of community producers from around the world who are very much like the people who produce programs in our access centers.

Each year the CMC focuses on a different country, show six to eight hours of video, and brings in at least one independent producer to put a human face on community media outside the US borders. Last year the festival focus was Brazil. One of the videos shown had to do with an access project involving an indigenous tribe from the Amazon. A technical crew gave cameras to village members, showed them how to use the equipment and then documented how the native people chose to use this new technology. It was fascinating.

This year we will be showcasing community videos from Korea. Manhattan Neighborhood Network's Hye-Jung Park has agreed to be part of this two-day event that again will feature video, a panel discussion and a Korean meal. Anyone is welcome to attend, but more importantly we would like to extend an invitation to other access centers that would like to use the videos we will be screening for similar events in their community—in a sense a traveling community media festival.

If you would like to participate in a traveling international community media festival, contact Jeff Smith at 616.459.4788 x122 or email [jsmith@grcmc.org](mailto:jsmith@grcmc.org). To see what videos we have shown in past years and are available for loan, visit our website at <http://mediafest.grcmc.org>.

— Jeff Smith



by Jeffrey Hansell

On August 17, 1999, one of the most powerful earthquakes of the last century struck near Izmit, Turkey, killing 17,000 people and injuring more than 44,000. Later I received a message via Bunnie Riedel from Yerel Televizyonlar Birliği—YTB—a union of 165 TV stations all across Turkey, seeking assistance to distribute a fundraising video for victims of the earthquake. As I was living in Paris then, I contacted representatives of YTB, who seemed interested in the Alliance for Community Media and in bringing democratic reform to Turkey.

Because of the opportunity to utilize community media to provide humanitarian assistance in the wake of this tragedy, I worked with various members of Open Channels Europe (OCE), to have the video played over several open channels in Europe.

As a result, YTB invited me to visit Istanbul, tour their new TV facility and consult with them on community media matters.

Flying into the former Constantinople, I was reminded that twice in recorded history, this place was the center of the known world and the seat of the formidable Ottoman Empire. Now it is a city of great poverty and terrible wealth, 50 percent inflation, overcrowded streets, and polluted air and water.

Today Istanbul, and by extension, Turkey, still stands at the doorway of Europe, politely waiting to be admitted into the European Union. Some friends warned that YTB might be a front, and that I was being used to carry a positive message about the "new" Turkey to the outside world.

# TURKEY

## A DEMOCRACY IN SHADOWS

Though my hosts were warm and generous, the YTB organization turned out to be less of a non-profit and more of a shopping channel. YTB's control center was filled with nearly 200 monitors, PCs, and satellite equipment in order to insert advertising into the "independent and community" TV stations across the country.

YTB's new facility also had dramatic photos of Atatürk, the founder the modern Turkish

democracy, placed in every room. So proud of these photos, that one person pointed out how they had digitally altered them to portray historical scenes which had not actually occurred.

On one afternoon, I went over the material from the Alliance, posed for "official" photos, and asked my host to hold up Alliance bumper stickers, in almost every shot. I had a brief meeting with the chief investor of YTB, who could have been either the president of a local Kiwanis Club or an Anatolian warlord.

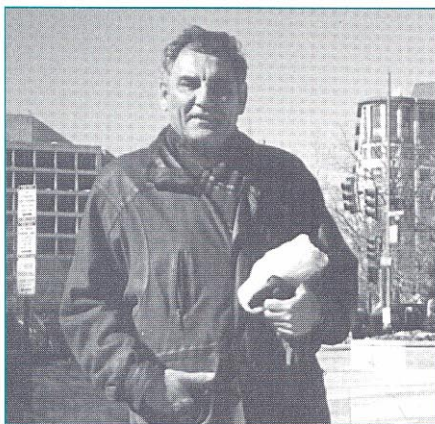
Upon leaving Turkey the next day, I was disappointed and confused, wondering if this trip was a complete waste of time, and if I had done any good at all.

Weeks later, I spoke to Doğu Ergil (see accompanying article), who confirmed my worst fears, but also said that it was a good thing for me to have gone and make the attempt to reach out. Nevertheless, Professor Ergil scolded me for acting like the holier-than-thou American on a mission. When I asked what he thought Turkey needed in order to move towards a real democracy, he gave a familiar answer: access to the technology, proper training, and the means to broadcast independently of the government.

*The following is condensed from: A Civic Adventure, by Professor Doğu Ergil, of Ankara University.*

When Professor Doğu Ergil, of the Political Science Faculty of Ankara University decided that it was time to diagnose the ongoing "Kurdish problem" it had been exacting blood from the youth of Turkey for almost a decade. The conflict has not only has consumed tens of thousands of young men and women of Turkey in a fratricide, but has cost dearly in economic terms and shadowed the country's image as an immature democracy with little respect for rule of law.

Ergil's initial research, when published in 1995, revealed that 90 percent of the Kurds wished to remain citizens of Turkey, but respected as Kurds. Moreover, Ergil became convinced of the mass ignorance of the Turks about the "Kurdish problem" and brought together a group of Turks and Kurds for a series of lengthy meetings/negotiations and turned out a framework for the democratization of the Turkish political system. With help from the other participants, and the Search for Common Ground, Doğu formed the



**Professor Doğu Ergil**

Foundation for the Research of Societal Problems—TOSAV.

More aware of the dire need of disseminating culture of democracy to promote their efforts of conciliation, TOSAV decided to launch two complimentary programs. One was to initiate a radio program called *Democracy Radio*. This program is in its third year now. TOSAV worked through three radio stations in Ankara, buying their time on Saturdays between 11:30-13:00, which is primetime in Turkey for radio listeners. In these one and a half-hours, two or three members

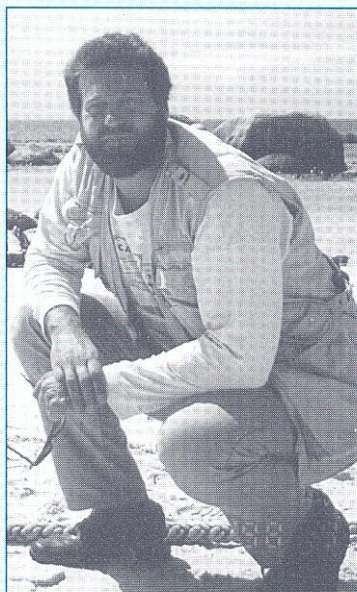
present a well worked topic concerning democracy, such as "Democracy and Rule of Law", or "Democracy and Women" or "Democracy and Environmental Issues". Then, an expert or experts offer their opinions. In the remaining 30-40 minutes, listeners call in and present comments or ask questions. This interactive program has been so successful that 15 radio stations all over Turkey have demanded recorded programs from TOSAV in order to broadcast them to their local listeners and open a debate in the concerned community.

For his efforts, Ergil has been harassed and persecuted by the Turkish court system and the PKK, who have viewed his conciliatory efforts as a threat to the traditional power structures, and as a result, TOSAV's activities were suspended. (Now reformed as the Center for the Research of Societal Problems—TOSAM)

Today, after an internship at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, DC, Professor Ergil has returned to Ankara and to promoting conciliation and working towards non-violent conflict resolution. You may contact Doğu Ergil at [tosam@tosam.org](mailto:tosam@tosam.org), or visit the web-site at [www.tosam.org/english.html](http://www.tosam.org/english.html)



# Community Media as a Tool for Peace



*These comments were prepared for presentation at the UNESCO conference in Brasilia, Brazil in June 2000 in observance of the United Nations' Year of Peace [see [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)].*

*Dirk Koning is a social media activist who built and manages a prototype community media center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has been active in the community media movement for more than 20 years and has helped to develop community media in a dozen countries and many states in the U.S. He writes, speaks and consults extensively on media issues.*

*A former member of the national board of the Alliance for Community Media, he currently serves as chair of the COMMUNITY MEDIA REVIEW editorial board. He also chairs the Alliance for Communications Democracy.*

*He is the 2000 recipient of the Alliance for Community Media's George Stoney Award for Humanistic Communications.*

*Contact him at Community Media Center, 711 Bridge St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504, or email at [dirk@grcmc.org](mailto:dirk@grcmc.org)*

**by Dirk Koning**

The Latin origin for the words *community* and *communication* is the same: *to share*. The idea of community media is to establish radio, television, print and Internet of, for and by the people. In other words, citizen-controlled media for non-commercial and social development purposes.

Wonderful models of community media being developed and deployed for social service abound. Bush Radio in South Africa allows local people to program micro radio stations with information about health, education and entertainment. Several stations help locals build their own radio to operate off of sun power or a hand cranked internal generator. In Nepal, a father and son in the mountains feeding local villagers national, international and local news have started a small cable television system. A high school teacher developed a survey to assess the water quality of local streams. Her students tested the streams and reported the results. She then had the idea to have students all around the Earth at the 45th Parallel north do the same. She contacted them via email and the results were combined to provide a model of water quality in small streams around the earth at that point. Another group taught indigenous peoples along the Costa Rican coast how to use GPS devices to map their land holdings and slow down or stop rogue developers.

Email lists have been established for hundreds of activist groups who stay connected and organized via regular cross communication.

Peace groups have harnessed information technology for similar internal and external purposes. Organizing videotapes explain the issues and suggested actions. Audiocassettes help educate many at low costs. Websites can be a very effective and inexpensive way to share critical, current information with fellow activists and organizers. Media relations can be very effectively managed and maximized via email communication. On-line video and audio streaming on the Web is becoming far more

affordable and has myriad possibilities for peace action.

An important step in the journey to use information technology for social service and peace activities is to know what is available. Also it is important to know what is effective in what location and at what cost. Most information technology is being developed for commercial applications in a capitalist model. It is incumbent on activists to deconstruct the hardware and software and network applications to assess the relevant and relative value.

Many products designed for one purpose can be easily adapted to a completely different purpose. Having a clear idea of the problem that needs to be addressed is the first step. Then a complete grasp of available technology based solutions is essential.

Not only is knowing about community media important, but teaching others to use it to amplify their own voices is critical. So much media is developed in foreign places to sell products. We the people need to create our own media for our own uses and development. We also need to provide media literacy training to help children realize the motive behind most commercial media and not just blindly succumb to its magic. Media literacy requires the analyzing, critiquing, deconstructing and creation of media. Who creates what message for what audience to achieve what purpose?

Finally a group of media and social activists have created a People's Communication Charter [see page 16]. This document lays out 18 core principles for information management and control on earth. One hope is to amend the United Nations Human Rights Charter to include the People's Communication Charter and validate the assumption that access to and dissemination of information is a fundamental human right. You can find the PCC at [www.waag.org/pcc](http://www.waag.org/pcc).

Power to the People for Peace.





## Test drive a Casablanca tonight.

**F**ive-time World Land Speed Record-holder Craig Breedlove knows winning performance when he sees it. That's why he chose the Casablanca nonlinear digital editor to create on-site racing videos of his 1999 Spirit of America™ world record run. Craig has found that for easy handling and responsiveness, no other stand-alone editor comes close to DraCo's Casablanca.

To prove it, we invite you to take the Casablanca home tonight for a test drive. Put it through its paces—no strings attached. You'll love the way it lets you create exceptional videos

quickly and easily. The Casablanca is as simple to use as a VCR—just plug in a monitor or television and start editing. You'll find it has power, functionality, capability—everything you'd expect from a high-end editor except the price. A complete Casablanca system starts at just \$3,995.

### **New Version 3 enhancements you've got to see to believe.**

The Casablanca is so manageable, you can create stunning professional projects, right out of the box. With splits and trims. Scrub audio. Even 3D transitions and page turns. It also boasts extremely smooth slow motion

and displays a full-screen preview of transitions, effects and titles.

Like everything about the Casablanca, trying it out is simple. Just call us at **303.440.5311**, or visit us on the web at **www.draco.com** for the dealer nearest you and arrange a test drive. But don't delay. Because the Casablanca is going fast.

## **DraCo**

**www.draco.com**  
303.440.5311  
fax: 303.440.5322  
e-mail: info@draco.com  
DraCo Systems Inc  
5485 Conestoga Court  
Boulder, Colorado 80301

Catch news about the 1999 World Land Speed Record attempt at [www.spiritofamerica.com](http://www.spiritofamerica.com)  
Catch news about the Casablanca Test Drive program at [www.draco.com](http://www.draco.com)



## Attention Alliance Members: Looking for value-added programming?

*"Airing the Recovery Network in Dayton has positively impacted the community. This is one more level of service to our community that we provide. There are so many people in the viewing area who watch Recovery Network and get help in the privacy of their homes."*



**Melissa Mills, Program Director**  
Dayton Access TV/Dayton Spiritual Television

**Recovery Network can have an impact in your community too. Contact a representative today!**



**Brad Parobek**  
SVP Affiliate Sales & Mktg  
**303-706-1260**

**Michael Galer**  
Eastern Region  
**617-783-1271**

**Tim Somers**  
Central Region  
**630-690-9303**



# The Annenberg/CPB Channel

intelligent television



**Free.Here.Now.** Give your community 50 hours per week of unparalleled education programming for learners and teachers.

Contact us at 1.800.228.8030 ext. 4 or [channel@learner.org](mailto:channel@learner.org)

**[www.learner.org/channel](http://www.learner.org/channel)**

presented by Harvard University and Smithsonian Institution

## COMMUNITY MEDIA REVIEW

Community Media Center  
711 Bridge St. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-7514



Printed on  
Recycled Paper

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit 918

Tim Goodwin  
7 Burr Oak NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505